

# FARMERS' Quarterly

★ ★ ★ NATIONAL FARM MACHINERY SHOW ISSUE ★ ★ ★

## Tips for NFMS

### 9 things to know before you go

2025 marks the 59th year for the **National Farm Machinery Show**. The Exposition Center is ready to showcase a terrific show for everyone to enjoy, right in the heart of Louisville, Kentucky.

Before arriving at the Kentucky Exposition Center, here are some helpful tips to make the most out of your trip to the country's largest indoor farm show.

#### #1. New Parking Options -

There are now two parking options at the Kentucky Exposition Center. **OPTION 1** is to purchase a single-entry parking pass ahead of time here! This parking pass costs \$12 and allows a single-time entry onto the property.

**OPTION 2** is to purchase an In/Out parking pass upon arrival at the gates. This option allows you to enter and leave the property as many times as you'd like on the day of purchase.

*Option 2 is perfect if you're attending the National Farm Machinery Show during the day and coming back in the evening to watch the Championship Tractor Pull.*

#### #2. Comfortable shoes are a must



The Championship Tractor Pull will be in Freedom Hall Feb. 12-15

The National Farm Machinery Show spans across the entire 1.2 million sq. ft. of space. Need to rent a scooter? Visit Scooter Time Rentals between Freedom Hall and North Wing.

**#3. Plan out your visit** - With over 800 booths and only four days to fit everything in, we recommend checking our latest exhibitor list and map here to figure out your game plan.

**#4. Gate 4 is closed** - Gate 4 is currently undergoing renovation to expand and improve gates, lanes, and wayfinding. *Please enter the property through Gates 1, 2, & 6.*

**#5. Take a break** - There are lots of great Kentucky food options in several food courts located throughout the Kentucky Exposition Center. The lunch lines can get pretty long, so try to hit the food vendors up just before the afternoon rush or hold out for a late lunch to avoid the lines.

**#6. Learn something new** - NFMS offers **free seminars** each of the four show days. Check out the full schedule here.

**#7. Stop and shop** at the Gift & Craft Market - Check out the vendors on the second floor of the South Wing selling everything from t-shirts to home goods and everything in between. Open every day through 6 p.m., just in time to get your seats to the pull.

**#8 Get an adrenaline rush?** Get tickets to the Championship Tractor Pull sponsored by Farm Credit Mid-America at Freedom Hall! There are five pulls to choose from: one each night of the farm show starting at 7:00 p.m., and one on Saturday afternoon at 12:00 p.m. But hurry, this year's pulls are selling fast. Oh, and don't forget your earplugs!

**#9. Plan for next year!** Many folks are already looking forward to next year? So plan now. The 60th annual National Farm Machinery Show will take place on February 11-14, 2026.

#### Remember to stay in touch!

Follow us on Facebook, X, and Instagram for show updates and the latest and greatest of the National Farm Machinery Show!

#### Section Highlights

**A9 & 10** • EGG PRICES  
**B4** • BOURBON Trade War  
**C11-15** • NFMS Booth Map/Info  
**D14 & 15** • Recipes Dairy/Meat  
**E10** • Precision AG/AI & GPS

### Howell to serve on Agriculture & Rural Development Committee

FRANKFORT, KY - Sen. Jason Howell, R-Murray, has been appointed by Senate President Robert Stivers, R-Manchester, to serve on the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee of The Council of State Governments Southern Office (CSG South).

As a committee member, Howell will work with policy-makers across the 15-member states to address key agricultural policies, rural economic development, and infrastructure challenges impacting farm communities. This appointment offers him access to research, legislative briefings, and expert resources provided by CSG South, with support from committee leadership and policy experts.

The Agriculture and Rural Development Committee focuses on issues critical to the future of farming and rural communities. These include distributing water and other natural resources, new opportunities for exporting agricultural commodities to international markets, access to health care and transportation in rural communities, integration with the global economy, and bridging infrastructure challenges between rural and urban communities.

Howell will serve a two-year term ending Dec. 31, 2026.



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# Navigating the agricultural landscape post-2024 election

The 2024 U.S. presidential election has ushered in significant changes that are poised to impact the agricultural sector. As attendees of the 59th annual National Farm Machinery Show, it's crucial to understand how these developments may influence farming operations, policies, and the broader agricultural economy.

## Policy Shifts and the Farm Bill

With the new administration under President Trump, there is anticipation regarding potential policy shifts affecting agriculture. One primary area of focus is the Farm Bill. The previous Farm Bill, enacted in 2018, expired at the end of 2023 and was extended for another year. The current administration's approach to reauthorizing the Farm Bill could bring significant changes, particularly concerning conservation program funding and support mechanisms for farmers. Any alterations in funding for programs like the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) may influence farmers' abilities to manage risks amid economic and environmental challenges.

## Trade Relations and Market Access

Trade policies are another critical area under review. The administration's stance on existing trade agreements and

potential new tariffs could affect export markets for U.S. agricultural products. Farmers should stay informed about these developments, as changes in trade relations can directly impact commodity prices and market accessibility.

## Labor and Immigration Policies

Labor availability remains a pressing concern for the agricultural sector. The administration's immigration policies, particularly regarding the deportation of undocumented immigrants, could significantly affect the workforce that many farms rely on. Farmers are encouraged to monitor these policies closely and consider strategies to mitigate potential labor shortages.

## Environmental Regulations and Sustainability

Environmental policies are expected to undergo changes, with potential impacts on regulations related to climate change and sustainability practices. The administration has indicated intentions to overturn certain climate regulations, which could influence farming practices and compliance requirements. Farmers should assess how these regulatory changes may affect their operations and explore opportunities to adopt sustainable practices that align

with evolving policies.

## Preparing for the Future

In light of these potential changes, it's essential for farmers to stay informed and proactive. Engaging with agricultural organizations, attending industry events like the National Farm Machinery Show, and consulting with policy experts can provide valuable insights. By

understanding the evolving policy landscape, farmers can make informed decisions to navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

As the agricultural sector adapts to the post-election environment, staying informed and flexible will be key to maintaining resilience and ensuring continued success in farming operations.



Farming in the new era!



Farmers say they're struggling to survive.

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## Vertical Indoor Farming: *Agriculture for the Modern Farmer*

As the farming industry evolves, modern farmers are turning to vertical indoor farming as a way to increase yields, reduce resource consumption, and meet the growing demand for fresh produce. This revolutionary approach to agriculture allows crops to be grown in stacked layers within climate-controlled indoor environments, making it possible to produce food year-round regardless of weather conditions. With advancements in LED lighting, hydroponics, and automation, vertical farming is emerging as a profitable and sustainable solution for farmers looking to adapt to changing market demands.

### Maximizing Space and Yield

One of the biggest challenges for traditional farming is land availability. With increasing urbanization and shrinking farmland, vertical indoor farming provides an opportunity to grow more food in less space. By utilizing multi-tiered growing systems, farmers can increase production per square foot—a game-changer for those with limited acreage or those looking to expand into urban markets. Additionally, controlled environments eliminate pests, diseases, and unpredictable weather, reducing crop loss and ensuring a consistent harvest.

### Water and Resource Efficiency

Unlike traditional farming, vertical indoor farms use up to 95% less water by utilizing closed-loop hydroponic or aeroponic systems. These systems recycle water, ensuring that crops receive the necessary nutrients without excessive waste. Additionally, the absence of soil means no need for



**Modern Vertical Indoor Farm – Showcasing crops growing in stacked layers under LED lighting in a high-tech, climate-controlled environment.**

chemical pesticides, making vertical farming an eco-friendly and sustainable choice. With water scarcity becoming a growing concern, this method allows farmers to produce high-quality crops with minimal environmental impact.

### Meeting Market Demand and Expanding Opportunities

Consumers are increasingly demanding fresh, locally grown food—especially in urban areas where traditional farming is not feasible. Vertical indoor farming enables farmers to grow and distribute produce closer to consumers, reducing transportation costs and ensuring fresher products. This presents an excellent opportunity for farmers to partner with grocery stores, restaurants, and farm-to-table markets, giving them direct access to high-value customers while eliminating the need for intermediaries.

### Technology-Driven Farming for the Future

Modern farmers who embrace smart agriculture are finding success with automated systems, AI-driven crop monitoring, and data

analytics to optimize growth. LED lighting systems mimic natural sunlight, providing plants with the exact spectrum they need for photosynthesis, while automated climate controls ensure optimal temperature and humidity. With less labor-intensive work and higher precision farming techniques, vertical farms are increasing efficiency while lowering operational costs.

### A Profitable and Sustainable Investment

While vertical farming requires initial investment in infrastructure and technology, the long-term benefits far outweigh the costs. Higher crop yields, reduced resource use, and direct-to-market selling opportunities make this a profitable alternative to traditional farming. As government incentives and sustainability grants continue to support innovative farming practices, vertical indoor farming is set to become an integral part of the modern agricultural economy. For farmers looking to diversify their business, increase resilience, and tap into emerging markets, vertical farming provides a sustainable and profitable future.

# Bridging the Gap:

## Farmers and the Farm-to-Table movement

As the agricultural landscape evolves, farmers are discovering new opportunities to connect directly with consumers through the farm-to-table movement. With growing consumer demand for locally sourced, fresh ingredients, restaurants are turning to farmers for high-quality produce, dairy, and meats. At the 59th annual National Farm Machinery Show, this movement is more than just a trend—it's a viable business opportunity for farmers looking to expand their markets, increase profitability, and build stronger community ties.

### Direct-to-Restaurant Partnerships: A New Revenue Stream

Traditionally, farmers have relied on wholesalers and large distributors to bring their products to market. However, the farm-to-table model allows them to sell directly to restaurants, cutting out the middleman and securing better prices for their goods. By working with local chefs and restaurateurs, farmers can create long-term partnerships that provide a steady demand for fresh, seasonal ingredients. This not only increases profit margins but also adds value to their brand, as diners today appreciate knowing where their food comes from.

**Ditch the Middleman:** Farmers can sell directly to restaurants, which means more cash in their pockets. Think

of it as cutting out the unnecessary fees and getting paid what you're worth.

### Technology and Logistics: Making It Work

One of the biggest challenges in farm-to-table integration is logistics. Farmers must be able to deliver fresh produce and meats quickly and efficiently. Advancements in digital inventory management, online ordering systems, and refrigerated transportation have made it easier than ever for farmers to coordinate with restaurants. At this year's show, exhibitors will showcase innovative technology that helps farmers manage supply chains, ensuring that fresh ingredients make it from the farm to the plate without spoilage or delays.

### Expanding Farm Offerings: More Than Just Crops

For farmers, farm-to-table isn't just about selling fruits and vegetables—it's about diversification. Many successful farm-to-table operations also offer farm-raised meats, artisanal cheeses, organic eggs, and specialty grains. Additionally, agritourism—where farms host tastings, farm dinners, and hands-on experiences—has become a lucrative way to engage with consumers and restaurateurs alike. By diversifying products and services, farmers can create multiple income streams while



**Farmer Delivering Fresh Produce – A farmer shaking hands with a chef while unloading fresh ingredients at a local restaurant.**

strengthening relationships with local businesses.

### Building Consumer Trust and Community Engagement

Consumers today are more conscious of where their food comes from and are willing to pay a premium for locally grown, sustainably produced ingredients. By partnering with restaurants and marketing directly to consumers, farmers can create strong brand recognition and loyalty. Some farms have even started collaborating with chefs to host farm-to-table dinners, bringing diners onto the farm for a unique, immersive experience. These events not only strengthen relationships with customers but also serve as an additional source of income.

together. As government policies continue to emphasize sustainable agriculture and rural development, farmers who integrate into the farm-to-table market may also become eligible for grants and funding programs that support small-scale, sustainable farming practices.

### The Future of Farming is Local

The farm-to-table movement is reshaping the agricultural economy, offering farmers direct access to high-value customers who care about quality and sustainability. By embracing this shift, farmers can increase their profits, reduce waste, and create meaningful connections with their communities. The National Farm Machinery Show serves as the perfect place to explore how farmers can integrate their work with this growing industry, ensuring that they remain at the forefront of modern agriculture.



**Farm-to-Table Restaurant Experience – A beautifully plated dish in a rustic-style restaurant, highlighting fresh, locally sourced ingredients.**

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### Offering 3:

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### Offering 4:

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### Offering 5:

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Farmer standing on his land, looking at storm clouds approaching.

# Climate Change & Weather Challenges:

*Protecting the Farm from the Unpredictable*

Farmers have always faced the uncertainty of the weather, but in recent years, it's been harder to predict. Droughts seem longer, storms hit harder, and seasons don't quite act the way they used to. A good farmer knows that you can't control the weather, but you can prepare for it.

The key to keeping the farm going is finding ways to work with the land, protect the animals, and make sure there's something left for the next generation.

### Preparing for the Worst to Keep the Farm Running

When it comes to protecting crops, some of the old ways still hold up. Planting

cover crops keeps the soil from washing away in heavy rains, and no-till farming helps keep moisture in when the rain just won't come.

Windbreaks and tree lines are still some of the best defenses against strong winds,

see *CLIMATE*, page A7



2015 CAT 287D

EROPS w/ A/C, Hi Flow, 2 Spd, Back Up Camera, 78" Bucket, Serviced & Work Ready ..... \$42,500



2004 BESTWAY FIELD PRO III 1200

90' Booms, Raven Monitor, Joy Stick Controller, Low Acres, Very Nice ..... \$9,450



2011 WOODS BW1800

1000 PTO, Walking Tandem Stump Jumpers, Good Blades & Gear Boxes .... \$9,450



1993 CAT IT18F

EROPS w/ Heat, DSL, P.S. Trans, Missing 2nd Gear, All Others Work Perfectly, Hyd Q CPLR, 17.5X25 Tires, All Orig, Runs Excellent, No Bucket Or Attachments, As-Is ..... \$11,500



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2013 JOHN DEERE 9560RT

CAH, P.S. 36" tracks, 6889 hrs, Green Star 6000 Globe, 5 Remotes, Leather Seat, Front Wts, PTO, Very Clean ..... \$109,500



2015 FREIGHTLINER

Detroit DD13 Engine, US EPA Label, Detroit DT12-DB Automated Trans, 52000 lb GVWR, Air Ride Cab, 275/80R22.5 Front Tires, 275/80R22.5 Rear Tires, Air Ride Suspension, 175 in Wheelbase, Air Sliding 5th Wheel ..... \$11,500



2019 CAT 305E2

EROPS w/ AC, Push Blade, Hyd. Thumb, 24" Bucket, Quick Coupler, 5884 Hrs. .... \$34,500



2012 FAST 8313

Liquid Applicator, 1100 Gallon Tank, 16-30 John Blue, Ground Driven Pump ..... \$13,500



2016 HYUNDAI HX300L

EROPS w/ A/C, 32" Pads, Long Stick, Hyd Thumb, Aux Hyds, Runs Good ..... \$44,500



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2002 AGCO DT180

Cummins, P.S. Trans, 3pt PTO, 46" Tires w/ Duals, New Rebuilt Trans w/ Paper Work ..... \$44,500



2011 JOHN DEERE 2310

54' Knock On Sweeps, 3 Bar Spike, Rolling Harrow Accu Depth, Very Nice ..... \$27,500



WHITE 6100

12-30 Front Fold, Liquid Fert., Keaton Seed Firmers Markers Insecticide ..... \$9,450



2015 CASE IH 380

Row Track, CVT Cab w/ AC, CVT Trans, 18" Tracks on 120 Spacing, 4 Remotes, 3pt w/ Quick Hitch, Big 1000 PTO, Suspended Cab w/ Heat & AC Seat, Pro 700 Monitor w/ RTK, Unlock 372 Receiver, Very Nice Local Farmer Retirement ..... \$139,500



2012 JOHN DEERE 8360RT

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SUDENGA 90B

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**CLIMATE,**  
*from page A6*

and barns need to be built sturdy enough to withstand whatever nature throws at them. For livestock, keeping plenty of water stored up and making sure there's proper shelter can mean the difference between life and death when extreme heat or cold sets in.

**Paying Attention to the Signs and Using What's Available**

A good farmer watches the sky and knows what's coming,

but these days, there are more tools to help. Weather reports have come a long way, and keeping an eye on radar and forecasts can give a few extra days to prepare. Some farms now use water-saving irrigation systems to stretch out a dry spell, and others rely on temperature-controlled barns to keep animals safe. While the old ways work, there's no harm in using a few modern tricks to keep the farm running smooth.

**Keeping the Farm Strong for the Future**

The land has always provided, but only if it's treated right. Taking care of the soil, water, and animals means there's something to pass down to the next generation. It's not just about getting through one bad season—it's about making sure the farm is still here for the next one, and the one after that. Hard work, smart planning, and a little bit of faith have always been the way of the farmer, and that hasn't changed, no matter what the weather does.



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# Second type of bird flu detected in US dairy cows

By **JONEL ALECCIA**  
AP Health Writer

Dairy cattle in Nevada have been infected with a new type of bird flu that's different from the version that has spread in U.S. herds since last year, Agriculture Department

officials said Wednesday. The detection indicates that distinct forms of the virus known as Type A H5N1 have spilled over from wild birds into cattle at least twice. Experts said it raises new questions about

wider spread and the difficulty of controlling infections in animals and the people who work closely with them. "I always thought one bird-to-cow transmission was a very rare event. Seems that may not be the case," said

Richard Webby, an influenza expert at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. A version of the H5N1 bird flu virus known as B3.13 was confirmed in March after being introduced to cattle in late 2023, scientists said. It has infected more than 950 herds in 16 states. The new version, known as D1.1, was confirmed in Nevada cattle on Friday, according to USDA. It was detected in milk collected as part of a surveillance program launched in December. "Now we know why it's really important to test and continue testing," said Angela Rasmussen, a virus expert at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada, who helped identify the first spillover.

The D1.1 version of the virus was the type linked to the first U.S. death tied to bird flu and a severe illness in Canada. A person in Louisiana died in January after

developing severe respiratory symptoms following contact with wild and backyard birds. In British Columbia, a teen girl was hospitalized for months with a virus traced to poultry. At least 67 people in the U.S. have been infected with bird flu, mostly those who work closely with dairy or cattle, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. USDA officials said they would post genetic sequences and other information about the new form of the virus to a public repository later this week. Scientists said that would be key to understanding whether the spillover was a recent event or whether the virus has been circulating, perhaps widely, for longer. "If this turns out to have been something that crossed into cattle a couple months ago,

a couple months is a long time not to detect it," said Michael Worobey, an evolutionary biologist at the University of Arizona who has studied the H5N1 virus in cattle. He added that it's important for federal officials to share promptly information about a virus that has the potential to trigger a pandemic that could "make COVID seem like a walk in the park." "It's a vital part of national security, global security, the well-being of people, of animals and of businesses in the U.S.," Worobey added. The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Science and Educational Media Group and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The AP is solely responsible for all content.



Dairy cows stand in a field outside of a milking barn at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Animal Disease Center research facility in Ames, Iowa, on Tuesday, Aug. 6, 2024.

(AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall,File)

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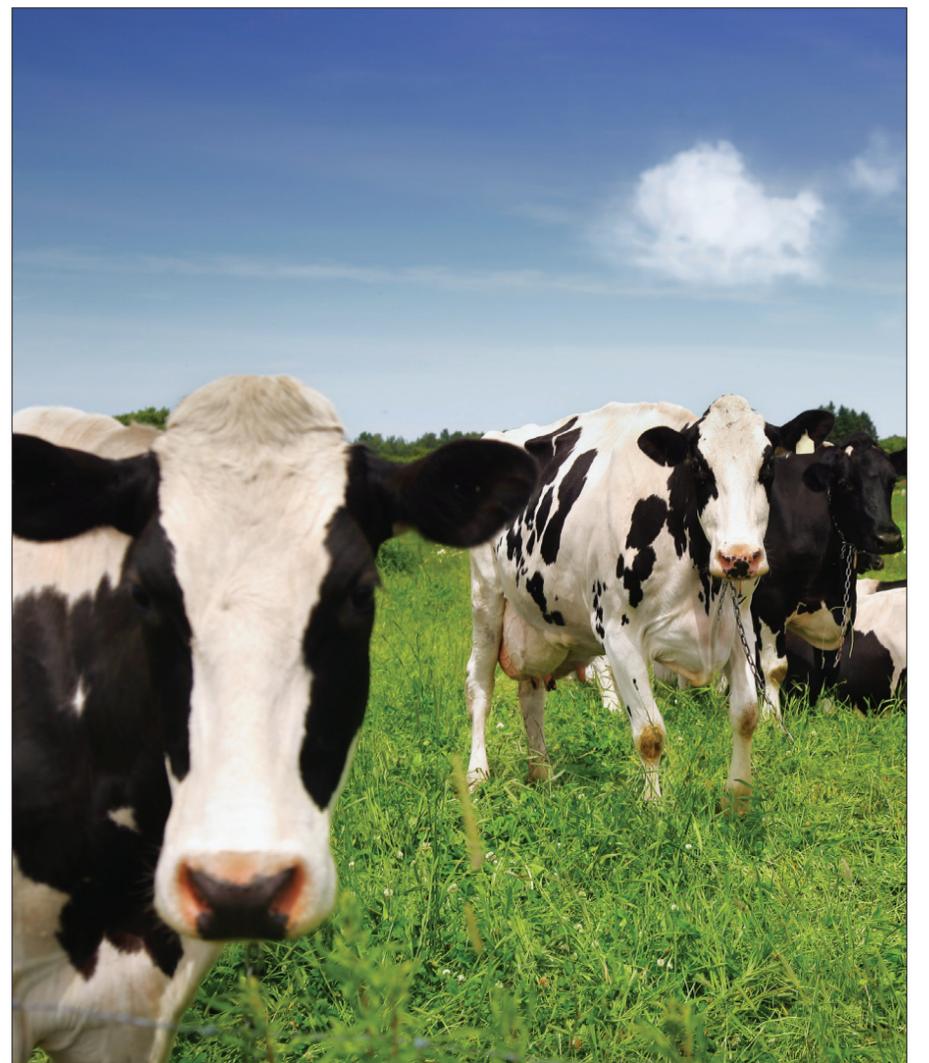
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# Soaring egg prices are piquing interest in backyard chickens

By **LEANNE ITALIE**  
AP Lifestyles Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Thinking about backyard chickens as egg prices soar? Think hard, especially in light of the bird flu outbreak.

Keeping home chickens as a pastime has continued to grow since the pandemic. But if eggs are the goal, remember that it takes planning and investment to raise the chickens and protect against bird flu. Costs might go well beyond the nationwide average of \$4.15 a dozen that commercial eggs sold for in December.

“Anyone who’s done an ounce of research will very quickly understand that there are no free eggs, there are no inexpensive eggs in keeping chickens,” said Kathy Shea Mormino, a home chicken blogger and author who has about 50 of the birds at her Suffield, Connecticut, home.

“You’re going to pay more, particularly in your first several years, in your set up and in your birds. And there’s a huge learning curve on how to care for animals that are really unusual pets,” said Mormino, who has kept chickens for 15 years and calls herself the Chicken Chick.

Costs vary wildly, from about \$200 to \$2,000 for a coop alone. Feeders and waterers range from about \$8 to \$50 or more, depending on the size and type.

Bird flu has forced farmers to slaughter millions of chickens a month, contributing (along with inflation) to the steep price of commercial eggs and resulting in some scantily stocked stores around the country. The scarcity and high prices are causing some to look for a backyard alternative.

“We’ve seen a real uptick in calls recently from people wanting to start their own backyard flocks. With the egg shortages at grocery stores, many are excited

about the idea of raising chickens and taking steps toward sustainability,” said Matthew Aversa, a co-owner of Winding

Branch Ranch, a nonprofit sanctuary and farm animal rescue outside San Antonio. “We adopt out whole

flocks. We’re receiving at least a dozen inquiries per week,” he said. Kate Perz, the animal science

coordinator for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County, New York, said that unlike other pandemic pastimes,

raising home chickens has only grown. “It’s not always

see *PRICES*, page A10



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## PRICES from page A9

cost-effective," she said. "You have to really look at how many eggs you're eating and what the cost of those are versus what you would be spending."

There are other reasons, of course, to keep chickens at home, not the least of which is the sheer joy of their presence. Mormino and other "chickeneers," as she calls home enthusiasts, have a coop full of tips on how to get started.

### Tend to legal matters

You may be ready to dive right in. Your town may not. Mormino, who wrote "The Chicken Chick's Guide to Backyard Chickens," said the first thing to consider is whether chickens are right for you. After that, don't assume your county, town or city will allow it.

Look up zoning and building codes yourself if you feel capable. Otherwise, consult an attorney who specializes in municipal law in your area.

Don't rely on word of mouth or even a town worker to know the ins and outs. Is a building permit required to build a coop? Are roosters banned under noise ordinances? Sometimes, zoning codes are silent on the subject. Don't assume that's a green light. Many codes are "permissive use" regulations, Mormino said, essentially meaning that if the code doesn't say you're permitted, you're not!



Sarah Penny holds Phoenix, one of the chickens she keeps in her yard in Knoxville, Tenn., on Jan. 29, 2025.

(Sarah Penny via AP)

If chicken-keeping is allowed, is there a limit on how many birds? Are there restrictions on where a coop can be built in relation to neighboring property lines. Most homeowners associations have rules on animal keeping.

Mormino lives in a farming town and had a neighbor who kept three horses and a small flock of chickens, so she assumed they were legal. They weren't. She called the town clerk's office to ask whether a building permit was required to build a coop and was told it wasn't. It was.

In the end, she successfully defended a lawsuit against her (she's an attorney) and prevailed in a long battle to amend the law, legalizing backyard chickens in her town.

### What about bird flu?

Bird flu is highly contagious. It spreads mostly by migrating waterfowl in their droppings. Chickens are far from immune if they spend any time free ranging or in a run without protection from wild fowl droppings.

"There's a limited number of things that we can do because our birds live where wildlife live," Mormino said. "People need to know if they have a bird or birds that die suddenly from some of the symptoms, they need to contact the USDA to get the postmortem exam and the birds tested for bird flu."

Don't bring sick birds into the house for care. That raises the risk of transmission to humans. Once the virus is confirmed,

the entire flock needs to be euthanized, she and Perz said.

Symptoms of bird flu include: sudden death without any clinical signs; swelling of the head, eyelids, comb, wattles or hocks; diarrhea; stumbling or falling down; decreased egg production and/or soft-shelled or misshapen eggs; and coughing and sneezing.

Don't feed any wildlife in areas where your chickens dwell or roam. Wash hands thoroughly after tending to chickens and dedicate a pair of shoes or boots strictly for use around them.

"The biggest mistake backyard chickeneers make is to bring new chickens into their flock that have lived someplace else. That's the fastest way to bring disease into your chicken yard," Mormino said.

### Consider your costs

Sarah Penny has turned her 7,000-square-foot home lot in Knoxville, Tennessee, into a beautiful garden and chicken home. She has nine birds and grows more than half the food she and her 13-year-old son eat.

She's had chickens since 2021 and estimates her startup costs at about \$2,500.

Monthly costs vary based on what chickens are fed and how coops are kept. Penny, for instance, uses the deep litter method and composts from her coop, meaning she's not mucking out her coop

more than twice a year.

"But the cost of starting with backyard chickens is definitely quite expensive. I don't know if a lot of people know that," Penny said.

Her coop alone, which her family built themselves, cost about \$2,000. It had to be outfitted to keep predators out, including rats that tunnel under the ground.

Many people start with buying hatchlings, which just got more expensive to ship via the U.S. Postal Service due to new fees. Raising hatchlings requires a chick brooder involving a separate enclosure, heat lamp, feeders and other supplies.

Penny buys a bag of feed every two weeks

for \$15 to \$20 a bag. There's also the cost of calcium, such as oyster shells, and grit to aid digestion if chickens are not free-ranging or getting those elements in their feed.

She estimates her monthly costs at about \$60, saving a bit by also feeding her chickens healthy human leftovers. She's careful not to include foods that are toxic for chickens, including onions, potatoes and avocados.

It's all worth it to Penny.

"We eat a lot of eggs," she said. "We probably go through a dozen every two days. We bake a lot. We're an ingredient household, so the majority of our food is cooked from scratch. Eggs are a main staple for our breakfast."



A selection of eggs from a backyard flock appear in Decatur, Georgia, on Nov. 20, 2018. More people are considering backyard chickens as the price of commercial eggs soars.

(AP Photo/Michael Warren)



This image shows a chicken coop and garden at the home of Sarah Penny in Knoxville, Tenn., in May 2024.

(Sarah Penny via AP)

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# New study assesses impact of agriculture research investments on biodiversity, land use

Written by Steve Koppes

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — New, groundbreaking research shows how, at a local scale, agricultural research and development led to improved crop varieties that resulted in global benefits to the environment and food system sustainability. The Purdue University study appears in the latest issue of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

“At the global level, we see a reduction in cropland use from these technology improvements leading to gains in terrestrial carbon stock and avoided loss of threatened plant and animal species,” reported the team led by Purdue’s Uris Baldos, research associate professor of agricultural economics.

The study is the first to undertake a fine-scale analysis back to the early 1960s. The analysis incorporated global data from approximately 100,000 grid cells. Each cell covers an area measuring 27.2 square kilometers (10.5 square miles) at the equator. Grid cells farther north and south of the equator become smaller because of the Earth’s curvature.

“You need that spatial resolution to get at the biodiversity question, because biodiversity is not evenly spread around,” said study co-author Thomas Hertel, Distinguished Professor of Agriculture. In another first, the study revealed how agricultural land-use changes have affected biodiversity. The analysis found that,

globally, reduced agricultural land use resulting from improved crop varieties saved 1,043 animal and plant species.

Saved plant species numbered 818, along with 225 amphibian, bird, mammal and

reptile species. “We find that roughly 80% of the avoided losses in plant species are located within 31 out of 34 biodiversity hot spots which are mapped in our model,” Baldos and his co-authors reported.

Agriculture covers about 37% of the world’s land area and generates one-fourth of greenhouse gas emissions that humans produce. The study found that

see *STUDY*, page A12



Purdue University’s Uris Baldos, research associate professor of agricultural economics, leads a new study assessing the impacts of agricultural research investments on biodiversity and land use. (Purdue Agricultural Communications photo/Joshua Clark)

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**STUDY**  
*from page A11*

improved crop varieties reduced the amount of cropland area from 1961 to 2015. Global croplands decreased by more than 39 million acres, while crop production increased by 226 million metric tons. Crop prices, meanwhile, dropped by nearly 2% as a result of the improved crop varieties.

The study also quantified the impact of new crop varieties developed by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), a global innovation network of 15 centers that marked its 50th anniversary in 2021. “Globally, CGIAR technologies contributed roughly 47% of the total production gains from adoption of improved crop

varieties in developing countries” from 1961 to 2015, Baldos and his co-authors reported. These CGIAR technologies also significantly reduced cropland use, greenhouse gas emissions and biodiversity loss.

The researchers generated their results with Purdue’s global model of agriculture, land use and the environment, called the Simplified International Model of agricultural Prices, Land use, and the Environment — Gridded, or SIMPLE-G. The model incorporated a novel decades-long dataset of variety adoption and farm-level crop yields provided by co-author Keith Fuglie, an economist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture Economic Research Service.

“For this version of SIMPLE-G, the key drivers are population growth and productivity growth,” Baldos said. Included in the model is crop production at the grid-cell level with input factors such as fertilizer, labor and water.

The researchers incorporated satellite data on terrestrial carbon and cropland availability into their SIMPLE-G model. The open-access book “SIMPLE-G: Gridded Economic Approach to Sustainability Analysis of the Earth’s Land and Water Resources” offers various versions of the model. SIMPLE-G is among an array of models developed by Purdue’s Global Trade Analysis Project.

Data constraints led previous studies to focus on national- and continental-scale regions in assessing the historical land-use effects of agricultural advancements. Those studies found that improving the application of agricultural technology made farming more profitable in areas such as sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America while fostering deforestation and other environmentally harmful impacts in certain locations.

But there’s also a global aspect, as Purdue agricultural economists have repeatedly studied over the years.

“Improved technology generally saves resources at the global level because you’re feeding more or less the same amount of people and doing it more efficiently,” Hertel noted.

Previous research, including a 2014 PNAS study by Hertel and Baldos, examined the impact of improved agricultural technology on land use and greenhouse gas emissions. It was the first such study that presented data from running an agricultural economics model backward in time over multiple decades, as well as forward, the way climate scientists have done for years.

The 2014 study, like the new one, ran a scenario backward to 1961 and then forward, with and without the new crop varieties. “If we take away the technology, what would things look like then?” Hertel said. In the new work, he added, “We’re repeating some of those innovations from that earlier study, but now with the fine-scale analysis that lets us get at the biodiversity and the terrestrial carbon.”

The earlier study discussed the prospective impact of a green revolution in Africa. “These improved varieties have had a big impact in Africa. That’s a good news story,” Hertel said.

Many of the early Green Revolution gains pertained to

Asia and some of Latin America. But with recent funding from various private and governmental organizations, research institutes in sub-Saharan Africa have begun developing new varieties of regionally important crops such as tubers and legumes.

“In the past, those countries didn’t have national research institutes that could adapt the improved varieties to local conditions,” Baldos said. The private sector, he noted, also developed new varieties over more recent decades, such as genetically modified soybeans in South America.

The research team concluded that ongoing research investment “can help sustain agricultural productivity growth across the world, strengthening global food security and mitigate agriculture’s environmental footprint in the coming decades.”

This research was supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development’s Bureau for Resilience and Food Security and the USDA Economic Research Service.

*About Purdue Agriculture*

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*About Purdue University*

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# Behind the Research: Sujoyung Shim, College of Agriculture

Story by Emily Matchar  
Photos by Joshua Clark

Many people are involved in the remarkable range of programs, services and facilities that undergird research in the College of Agriculture. Collectively they're integral to the college fulfilling its research mission. "Behind the Research" explores their individual roles. Each academic year, we profile six people whose work supports the College of Agriculture's global reputation for developing innovative, multidisciplinary solutions to challenges and then putting those solutions into action.

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Sujoyung Shim's career has run the science gamut. She has an undergraduate degree in biology from her native South Korea, a second undergraduate degree in pharmaceutical sciences from Purdue, and a master's in public health from Purdue. Her first job after her public health degree was in diabetes education in the IU hospital system. Her current job involves a very different kind of health: plant health. As a research associate in Darcy Telenko's field crop

pathology lab, she coordinates research on plant diseases like tar spot, gray leaf spot, and northern corn leaf blight disease of corn. It's a very different kind of work than what she'd initially imagined for herself, but she loves it.

"With disease management, we help people, farmers, and industry," she says.

Though Shim liked some parts of her job as a hospital diabetes educator, she soon realized there was little in the way of career advancement. She also missed research. When she heard of a Purdue lab needing a manager, it was a clear opportunity. When the first professor she worked for retired, she quickly transitioned into Telenko's then-new lab. She's been there for five years now.

"I'm proud of myself for managing all the students and projects," she says. "Throughout the year, we have a lot of things to do and I have to manage all of them."

'A lot of things to do' is something of an understatement. Telenko's lab is large, with eight research sites across the state, 10 lab members, and 60 to 70 projects on the go at any given time. Shim's responsibilities are both complex and expansive. Some of her work happens at a desk: she helps plan all the lab's projects, from the development of research protocols to coordinating field activities. She collects, manages and analyzes data, maintaining records of all experimental data to ensure its integrity. She contributes to final research reports, and assists with publication of books and manuscripts. Other work is at the lab bench: she works with fungal isolates, identifying and characterizing

different pathogens, as well as preparing fungal inoculum for field and laboratory trials.

She's currently involved in a project evaluating the impact of various factors on tar spot disease in corn. Factors that can influence the disease include tillage practices, hybrid types, and fungicide application.

"This project provides valuable insights into the most effective strategies for managing tar spot disease in corn and contributes to the development of sustainable and effective disease control practices for corn production," she says.

Other work happens on the lab floor: as lab manager, she's responsible for maintaining a safe and organized lab environment. This means making sure all lab workers, from students to staff to visiting faculty follow proper lab hygiene and safety protocols. Shim does all the lab's ordering and inventory management, making sure there's always an adequate inventory of lab supplies and equipment. She also does equipment maintenance and troubleshooting – if a piece of equipment is down, that can result in costly delays. Shim prevents this by regularly assessing equipment and coordinating with service technicians for repair and maintenance.

Still other work is more people-focused. Shim supports and mentors undergraduates and graduate students, showing them the ropes of lab work and scientific research fundamentals. It's very important to her that students feel supported.

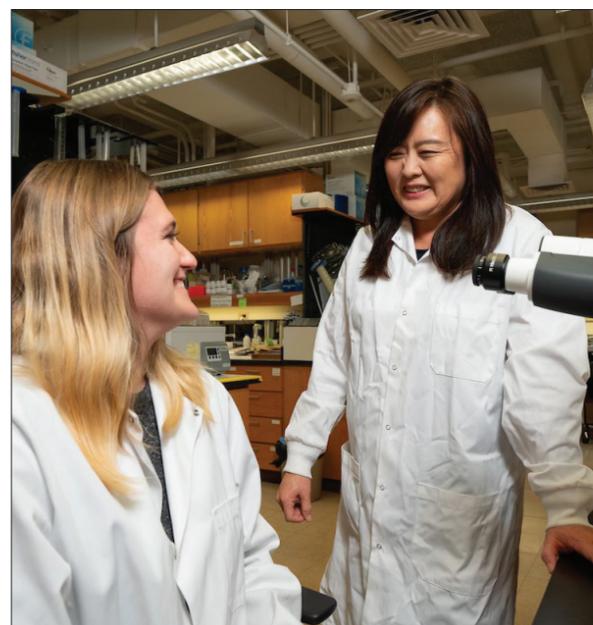
"I foster a positive and collaborative environment where students feel

comfortable asking questions, seeking assistance, and developing their research skills," she says.

When she's not working, she enjoys exercise, taking part in campus events, and spending time with her husband and her son, currently a freshman studying pharmacy at Purdue.

"After moving here to pursue my education, West Lafayette quickly became my home," she says. "I appreciate the welcoming and inclusive atmosphere, with a diverse student body and a lack of prejudice towards international students."

As for the future, she hopes to keep developing her knowledge and skills, learning more about advanced molecular techniques, disease



Sujoyung Shim, Research Associate, Botany & Plant Pathology, speaks with a lab assistant.

diagnostics, and data analysis. She's constantly looking for ways to improve, participating in workshops, conferences and online courses.

"These experiences have been invaluable in developing my

research skills and expanding my knowledge," she says. "I am incredibly grateful for the opportunities and experiences that Purdue has provided me. It has been a challenging yet rewarding journey."

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# How rising food demand is affecting farming

The population is growing and so is its demand for food to fuel those extra bodies. Harvard Business Review reports the global population has quadrupled over the last century. It's predicted that, by 2050, the population will exceed nine billion people.

The world is not able to feed all of its inhabitants, according to Penn State. There are more than one billion people who are estimated to lack sufficient food, and two billion who do not receive adequate nutrition.

Researchers from the Institute on the Environment at the University of Minnesota concluded that, to feed the world by 2030, yields on maize, rice, wheat, and soybeans will have to rise by 60 to 110 percent. At the start of 2023, projections show them only increasing by 45 to 60 percent. There are a few reasons why food supply may not meet up with demand.



- **Climate change:** Climate change is predicted to cause issues to crop yields, especially in portions of the world where the population is growing the fastest. For example, a recent NASA study published in the journal *Nature* predicts that high greenhouse gas emissions may cause corn output to decline

as early as 2030, but wheat output would increase. Farmers may need to roll with the punches and shift operations to cope with the environmental changes.

- **Decreased commercial farming interest:** Fewer people are working in farming. Land prices for expansion, new government mandates

and regulations, and the impact of immigration and trade policies have made farming less attractive than it once was. Fewer commercial operations result in a diminished food commodity output.

- **Consumer waste:** Food loss and waste (FLW) is a widespread issue, posing a challenge to food

security. The World Bank estimates 30 percent of all food across the globe is wasted, amounting to 1.3 billion tons of food per year. The average global household wastes 74 kg of food each year, according to the United Nations Environment Programme's 2021 Food Waste Index. Food waste is an issue that needs a solution

as the world looks for ways to feed an expanding population in the decades to come.

In order to improve output, farmers have to make some changes. These can include investment in tools and technologies that enable farmers to apply nutrients more precisely and at lower cost, advises the Environmental Defense Fund. Seeds that need less water and fewer nutrients, as well as new fertilizers that are less likely to be lost to air and water, are some additional ideas. Farmers also may want to employ green practices, such as hydroponics and drip irrigation, if they haven't already, to improve efficiency and cut costs. The public also may need to petition their lawmakers to make it easier for farm workers arriving on working visas to man the fields.

Food demand continues to rise, and it has become challenging for agricultural operations to keep up.

## Things you may not know about rice

Rice is a major component of cuisines spanning the globe. Rice is one of the most important commodities in the world and feeds more people than any other crop. In fact, it is a

staple food, with the average American consuming 27 pounds of rice a year. However, the U.S. Rice Producers Association says that those in the United Arab Emirates

consume the most rice at 450 pounds a year, followed closely by residents of Asia, who eat an average 300 pounds a year.

There is much to learn about this simple grain, so enjoy these rice facts, courtesy of Free Rice, Food & Wine, Think Rice, and Facts.net.

- Rice provides more than 15 vitamins and minerals and a host of beneficial antioxidants.

- A half-cup serving of rice comes in at around 100 calories.

- Rice in its natural form is "brown," meaning it has three parts: a fibrous outer layer known as the germ; a middle layer called the bran; and a starchy center called the endosperm. The germ and bran of the rice help it to be nutritionally dense,

including high in fiber. Rice that has had the germ and bran stripped is known as white rice. White rice is more shelf-stable, but doesn't offer the same nutritional benefits of brown rice.

- White rice offers some benefits. The carbohydrates in white rice provide energy to get through the day. Plus, white rice often is enriched, meaning some nutrients have been added back in.

- Cooked rice can spoil easily. It is best to always cook the right amount and then promptly store leftovers in the refrigerator rather than leaving it at room temperature.

- The cultivation of rice dates back more than 9,000 years. There is evidence of rice farming found in

ancient China, India and Southeast Asia.

- Research shows that eating rice can help a person feel fuller longer. So those who eat rice are less likely to be overweight.

- There are more than 120,000 varieties of rice. Most rice is affordable and readily available. Plus it is easy to prepare.

- Rice is considered a sacred crop in Japan and is commonly used in traditional ceremonies. Rice also features prominently in Buddhist rituals in Thailand.

- Rice in its natural form is gluten-free. As a result, people with Celiac disease or those who have gluten sensitivities can include rice in their diets.

- Certain rices are sticky and others

appear like loose grains. Amylose is the crystallized form of starch that prevents rice from sticking together after it is cooked. Basmati rice is one example of an amylose-rich rice. On the other hand, sticky rice contains the highest amount of amylopectin and no amylose. Sticky rice is used to make signature sweet dishes in Asia.

- Rice is an annual plant and is harvested only once a year. Rice is very labor-intensive to grow and requires high amounts of water for cultivation.

Rice is one of the most common foods consumed around the world and with good reason. It is nutritious, inexpensive and easy to add to any meal.



# 3 challenges facing the agriculture sector

Since the World Health Organization declared a global pandemic in early 2020, businesses big and small have faced significant challenges. Though the pandemic has ended, many sectors, including the agricultural industry, are facing familiar and unfamiliar challenges.

The agricultural sector is crucial to the survival and health of billions of people across the globe. Though it's obvious that modern agriculture is vital to feeding a global population that was greater than eight billion people at the dawn of 2024, the United Nations notes that agriculture also boosts prosperity and economies by providing jobs. That reality only underscores the notion that the challenges facing the agricultural sector are facing everyone, even those whose livelihoods are not directly linked to the industry. According to Earth.org, an organization that offers environmental news, data analysis, research, and policy solutions, the following are three sizable challenges facing modern agriculture.

1. **Climate change:** Perhaps no challenge is greater for humanity in the twenty-first century than climate change, and the agricultural sector is no exception. Climate change has caused shifting weather patterns marked by unpredictability and potentially disastrous developments like prolonged drought. Estimates from NASA indicate corn yields may decrease by 24 percent by the end of this century, a potentially dangerous development linked to a host of factors, including a shifting climate and elevated surface carbon dioxide concentrations that can be traced to human-caused greenhouse gas emissions.

2. **Population**



**growth:** The booming global population is attributable to numerous factors, including longer life expectancies in developed nations due to medical advancements. How to keep the global population fed at a time when the climate is adversely affecting crop yields is a significant challenge facing both humanity and the agricultural sector. As the population grows, so, too, does the demand for water, which also must be used to grow crops. Navigating this challenge will be significant, and how it's managed could affect the economic stability of the

agricultural industry in the decades to come.

3. **Investment:** Perhaps no industry is more vital to human survival than agriculture. Earth.org notes that countries with strong agricultural sectors often boast higher standards of living and health than nations with a less productive agricultural industry. Despite that, Earth.org notes that investment in the agricultural sector is not commensurate with the growing population. Supporting measures to invest more heavily in the agricultural sector could reduce

food shortages in the decades to come and ensure the agricultural sector is better positioned to address the many challenges it is already confronting in the twenty-first century.

The challenges facing the agricultural sector affect those who work in the industry but also the global population as a whole. Recognition of that reality may compel more people to support measures designed to ensure the agricultural sector can thrive and help the world to overcome potentially devastating challenges in the decades ahead.

# Fresh veggies are not exclusive to spring and summer

Spring and summer may be the seasons most often associated with gardening. But people who love to grow their own vegetables can do so even when the weather outside is frightful.

Various vegetables thrive in cool temperatures. The home and garden experts at HGTV note that some winter vegetables are hardy. That means they can handle frosts in temperatures as low as 25 F without being damaged. Others are even sturdier in the face of all that winter can throw at them, capable of tolerating temperatures that dip into the high teens.

Growing vegetables in winter requires a different approach than growing in spring and summer, as gardeners must be ready to prevent damage from frost if temperatures get especially chilly. For example, the experts at Michigan State

University Extension note that gardeners may need to utilize floating row covers to protect sensitive crops from frost. Gardeners interested in planting winter vegetables can speak with a local garden center professional about which crops to plant and what to do if temperatures push winter vegetable gardens to the brink.

Though it's up to gardeners what they want to plant, the following are some popular winter vegetables that can make for wonderful, fresh additions to any dinner table even after the traditional gardening season has come and gone.

- Arugula
- Broccoli
- Brussel sprouts
- Cabbage
- Carrots
- Collard greens
- Endive
- Parsley
- Parsnips
- Kale
- Radishes
- Rutabagas
- Spinach
- Swiss chard

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# Lt. Governor, Agriculture Commissioner and Education Commissioner announce Agriculture Education Week

(FRANKFORT, KY) – In a bipartisan announcement, Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman, Commissioner of Agriculture Jonathan Shell and Commissioner of Education Robbie Fletcher announced that March 17-21, 2025, will be the first statewide Agriculture Education Week in Kentucky. Gov. Andy Beshear will sign a proclamation that week to officially mark this historic event.

“In today’s political climate, it’s not often you see a Democratic Lt. Governor, a Republican Agriculture Commissioner and the head of an independent entity like the Department of Education come together for this important cause,” said Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman.

“We have found common ground in our shared value of providing our children with opportunities that will allow all Kentuckians to thrive for generations to come. We do that by bringing two of the most important sectors – agriculture and education – together in a way that’s never been done before.”

Agriculture Education Week delivers an all-encompassing learning experience for students, equips educators with ready-to-use lessons and fosters community involvement to create hands-on learning opportunities on the diverse world of agriculture for students.

“Ag Education Week is about more than just teaching kids where their food comes from. It’s about showing them the opportunities agriculture offers and inspiring them to be a part of its future,” said Commissioner Shell. “Agriculture touches

every aspect of our lives – from the clothes we wear to the fuel that powers our communities. By engaging students early, we’re not only fostering appreciation but also

preparing the next generation of farmers, scientists, business leaders and innovators who will keep Kentucky agriculture strong. Investing in education today

ensures a thriving sustainable industry for tomorrow.”

Commissioner of Education Robbie Fletcher talks with Parker Keyes, Northern Kentucky state vice president

for the Kentucky FFA Association, during the Ag Education Week kickoff event at the Kentucky State Capitol. Photo by Joe Ragusa, Kentucky Department of

Education, Feb. 5, 2025

Agriculture has a nearly \$50 billion impact on Kentucky.

see **EDUCATION WEEK**, from page B2

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**EDUCATION WEEK,**  
from page B1

There are nearly 70,000 farms in Kentucky (7th most in the United States) that compose over 12.4 million acres of land, making up nearly 50% of Kentucky's total acreage. Kentucky is the top beef-producing state east of the Mississippi River, and 95% of the world's bourbon is produced in the Commonwealth.

"During Ag Education Week,

every elementary student throughout the Commonwealth will be engaged in learning more about agriculture," said Commissioner Fletcher. "Kentucky's K-2 students will be learning about pollination through an agricultural lens, and our students in grades 3-5 will be learning about erosion. These lessons are aligned to Kentucky's science standards while also connecting to reading, writing and math."



Commissioner of Education Robbie Fletcher, Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman and Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell met with students from Second Street School (Frankfort Independent) and Creekside Elementary School (Hardin County) during the Ag Education Week kickoff event.

Photos by Joe Ragusa, Kentucky Department of Education, Feb. 5, 2025



Commissioner of Education Robbie Fletcher talks with Parker Keyes, Northern Kentucky state vice president for the Kentucky FFA Association, during the Ag Education Week kickoff event at the Kentucky State Capitol.

"While our students are learning about science and agriculture, they'll also have the opportunity to explore the many professions that are related to agriculture in Kentucky. Students will be able to see videos of the many people who are connected to the state's agriculture industry – from a

large animal vet to an auctioneer to a sheep shearer. They all tell their stories about what a day in the life looks like for them. This is a great opportunity for our students and our state." The key initiatives of Ag Education Week are broadening access to ag education to help students understand

where their food, fuel and fiber come from; support for teachers by providing accessible and easy-to-use lesson plans and resources; and connecting agriculture to real life-skills by teaching about nutrition, sustainability and how agriculture intersects with

nearly every career field in Kentucky. For more information on Agriculture Education Week, the history and diversity of Kentucky agriculture lesson plans and resources, and to learn how you can get involved in this initiative, visit the All in for Ag Education Week website.

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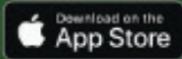
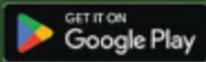
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# In Kentucky bourbon country, the prospect of a trade war feels like a hangover that won't go away

By Bruce Schreiner, Associated Press

LAWRENCEBURG, Ky. (AP) — In the rolling hills of Kentucky where most of the world's bourbon supply is crafted, the prospect of a new trade war feels like an aching hangover that won't go away.

Kentucky bourbon producers again found themselves in the crosshairs as a target for retaliation after President Donald Trump ordered new tariffs on U.S. neighbors Canada and Mexico. On Monday, Trump and the leaders of Canada and Mexico put their planned tariffs on hold for at least a month to allow further negotiations. But the lack of a final resolution still has some elected leaders and industry officials concerned about Kentucky's iconic spirit.

American whiskey exports slumped amid an earlier trade dispute during Trump's first term.

Before the monthlong reprieve was announced late Monday, Canada, a key export market for American spirits, responded to this latest outbreak of trade warfare by initially ordering tariffs on American



imports including beverages. Some authorities in several provinces had planned to remove American liquor brands from government store shelves.

The bourbon industry pumps \$9 billion into the Bluegrass State's economy each year, creating more jobs and attracting more tourists than ever before, according to a study released last year. Kentucky distillers produce 95% of the global

bourbon supply, according to the Kentucky Distillers' Association.

Bourbon production is part of the economic lifeblood of Lawrenceburg, a short distance from the distilleries for well-known brands Wild Turkey and Four Roses. In a place where support for Trump runs deep, some said they had faith in wielding tariffs as a way of gaining leverage in negotiations with other countries.

"I think it's time for

our nation to stand up for our nation. And that's what we're doing right now," Lawrenceburg resident Gary Chilton said as he ran afternoon errands. "Other nations have taken advantage of us for so long. It's a negotiating tool. It'll get worked out."

In a video posted to social media Sunday, Kentucky Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear warned that tariffs would hurt working families in a state that voted overwhelmingly for

Trump last November. The pain wouldn't be limited to distilleries, but would include segments that support the industry ranging from farmers to barrel-makers, said Beshear, who is widely seen by political observers as a potential candidate for president in 2028.

Republican U.S. Rep. Andy Barr, whose district spans part of Kentucky bourbon production country, remained supportive of Trump amid the uncertainty hanging over the

industry.

"Other nations have forgotten that the United States is the world's superpower, and under President Trump's leadership, they are quickly remembering that we will no longer be taken advantage of," Barr said in a statement Monday.

Barr said he was committed to protecting the bourbon industry, "a vital engine of jobs and economic growth."

Republican U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, meanwhile, voiced concerns Monday about the impact tariffs would have on jobs and consumer prices in the state and beyond.

"I'm all for pushing back on predatory trade practices and leveling the playing field for American producers, but I'm not a fan of tariffs," McConnell said in a statement. "At the end of the day, tariffs drive up the cost of the goods and services we all rely on, and American consumers pay the price."

The bourbon industry hopes cooler heads will prevail. The Kentucky Distillers'

see **BOURBON**, from page B5

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**BOURBON,**  
*from page B4*

Association commended Trump and the leaders of Mexico and Canada for suspending tariffs for 30 days. Both U.S. neighbors agreed to placate Trump by increasing efforts to boost border security and combat drug trafficking.

“We look forward to permanent agreements that will enable Kentucky bourbon to be enjoyed internationally,” Eric Gregory, the distillers’ association president, said in a statement late Monday.

Chris Swonger, president and CEO of the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States, had urged the U.S. and Canada to reach an agreement that enables the spirits industries in both countries to thrive. Many producers are boxed in by the tariffs, he said.

“Some spirits are recognized as ‘distinctive products’ by the U.S. and Canada and can only be made in their designated countries, such as bourbon and Tennessee Whiskey in the U.S. and Canadian Whisky in Canada,” Swonger said in a statement. “As a result, the production of these products cannot simply be moved to another country or region.”

American whiskey producers faced headwinds even before the latest trade squabble. It comes as the industry has massive inventories of aging whiskeys that will someday reach the market. In Kentucky, a record 14.3 million barrels of bourbon were aging, the Kentucky Distillers’ Association said recently. That inventory is awaiting bottling at a time when younger adults appear to be drinking less alcohol.

The biggest threat could be looming overseas, where the European Union is set to reinstate tariffs on American whiskey at a whopping 50% rate in late March if nothing is done to head it off. Trump told reporters Sunday

that import taxes will “definitely happen” with the European Union and possibly with the United Kingdom as well. The return of tariffs in the biggest export market for American whiskey would be devastating, Swonger has said.



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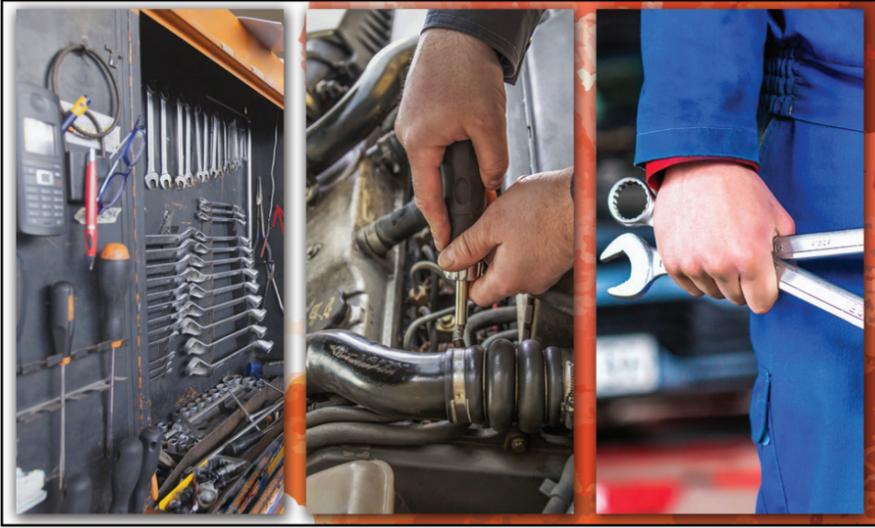
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Maintenance is an important part of farm life.

Photo Provided

## Farm equipment maintenance is super important

by Teresa Ann Pearson  
KPI Staff

Whether your farm is large or small, you have farm equipment that is an essential part of your farm life. That equipment is vital to your livelihood and is not cheap. Maintenance schedules are very important to keeping that equipment in running order and decrease the need for costly repairs that get into your profits.

- Do routine checks. Inspect your equipment on a regular basis. Check and replace filters as needed. Be sure fluids like oil are at the proper level. Check for corrosion and don't forget to make sure lights and signals are working properly.

It helps to know your equipment well and to at least have a basic understanding of how everything works.

- Keep your equipment clean. Clean equipment will go a long

way in making sure it will operate properly. Do at least a quick pressure wash after each use, then after each season do a thorough cleaning.

- Learn basic skills. It helps to know some basic mechanical skills to work on your equipment without having to hire a mechanic for minor issues which also cuts into your profit. Learn some simple welding and at least light mechanic skills to work on your own equipment especially important when time is of great importance.

- Train your help. Make sure your family and/or farmhands know how to help with the cleaning and maintenance also. It is great to know the skills yourself but you need everyone to do their part in helping with maintenance also.

Farmers big and small, invest a lot of money into their equipment each year, be sure you take great care of that equipment to make it last and protect your investment.

## What if you have too many roosters?

By Teresa Pearson  
KPI Staff

On our little farmstead, we raise gardens and several different animals. But, my favorite to raise is my chickens. We have several different breeds of chickens that lay various colors of eggs, making for a beautiful carton of eggs.

I always go and buy a few extra chickens in the spring to keep our flock going as chickens only lay eggs for 4 or 5 years. Another way I keep my flock going is to incubate some of the eggs and occasionally a chicken will get broody and sit on her eggs. When this happens we let her sit and see if she raises her chicks on her own and yes they sometimes do. Either way we always end up with extra roosters. I only like to keep one or maybe two if they are gentle roosters who don't chase me. If they chase me they are out! And if we get too many I have to decide who has to go. I have seen lots of people trying to get rid of their roosters by giving them away and often times there are no takers because everyone else has too many also. We don't want the extra roosters because they will fight and also they are too hard on the chickens.

Over the last several years I do not try to get rid of my roosters because I have learned to make good use of

them. Before I had tried to cook one and it was way too tough. I finally learned what I am sure my grandma knew, to butcher the roosters young and then soak the meat in salt water a few hours and then put them in the freezer for a week or two. This way the roosters are more tender and can be used. Better yet I like to can them making them even more tender.

I make soup first by cooking the rooster in the slow cooker and get the best meat off with a little of the broth and adding veggies. Then I take the rest of the bones and broth and slow cook a little longer and strain the broth off to can. To make it go even further I take the carcass and skin and add water, rice and any leftover veggies from supper or older canned veggies and can that for dog food. I use a few tablespoons of the dog food in cheap dry dog food to make it more palatable to the dogs and make it go further.

A lot of work, yes, but it is very satisfying knowing that you made good use of what you raised. And it is frugal old ways like grandma knew.

Don't know how to can? You should learn it is a great way to save and preserve. I learned from the Extension Office about five years ago and have canned everything in sight. You can also look on line and find canning videos to teach you.



Making good use of roosters includes making broth, soup, etc.

## Safety on the farm



Kids enjoy helping on the farm, but make sure they are safe.

by Teresa Ann Pearson  
KPI Staff

We all agree that safety on the farm is very important. But for children who live on a farm it is even more important that the parents make sure their kids know how to stay safe. Many children each year are injured or die by farm accidents. It is great for the whole family to help out on the farm but make sure they stay safe.

- Make sure kids know the rules. - Have conversations on a regular basis about safety rules and what is expected of the kids. Age will of course dictate what jobs they can perform on the farm. Kids will be kids so make sure you remind them constantly to be careful.

- Teach them the equipment. Children should know enough about farm equipment and tools to know how to behave around each piece. Help them understand

the dangers of each piece. Make sure equipment and tools are in clean and in proper working order so there are no mistakes and accidents.

- Have kids take farm safety classes. Contact your local Cooperative Extension and Farm Bureau offices to enroll children in farm safety camps.

- Be the example. Show your kids proper safety by being safe yourself. Use all equipment properly and set an example to the kids of what they should do by doing it too.

Thousands of kids help their parents on the farm, keep them safe by teaching them to be safe and being the example of safety to them.

Having your family help on the farm is wonderful and rewarding and can make for a bright future and fond memories, but make sure they are good memories. Their life depends on it.



## 8 step checklist for planning your on-farm grain storage system

On the farm, timing is everything. You get one shot each year to make a crop, and getting grain unloaded, stored and delivered shouldn't hold you back.

What do you need to consider as you plan for an on-farm storage system?

*Check out the list below.*

✓ **Proximity to a highway:** A state highway lets you haul grain year round without any road restrictions. Without a highway nearby, you may encounter road restrictions, hindering your ability to haul grain.

✓ **Natural gas:** Natural gas is the most economical way to dry grain. You can still dry grain with liquid petroleum (LP), it just may be a bit more costly.

✓ **Three-phase power:** Three phase power lets you operate larger machines and motors. Single phase may work, but three-phase allows you to confidently plan for future grain handling and storage growth.

✓ **Farms nearby:** Having your farm's grain storage facility near

your fields reduces transport time and fuel cost. It may even reduce the number of trucks needed.

✓ **Room for new bins:** Consideration for future growth and expansion. Who doesn't want to see more bushels in their bin?

✓ **New dryer/ wet bins:** Do not assume that your wet holding capacity will always be adequate. Once you start drying more grain, an increase in your wet bushel storage capacity will become a necessity.

✓ **Pit:** Adding a truck load out or a pit can sometimes save the cost of a truck or lead to other benefits.

✓ **Traffic Pattern:** Create a traffic pattern for separate dumping and loading stations to increase efficiency. Being able to load and unload grain simultaneously will decrease your total harvest time, thus saving you money.

A detailed grain storage plan that anticipates future growth is a must.

Source: [www.grainsystems.com](http://www.grainsystems.com)

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## WATER FLOW

Clear ice buildup on waterers, use tank heaters, and be ready to haul water if pipes freeze.

## SHELTER UP

Move animals indoors if possible, especially the young. Build wind barriers and add bedding for dryness and insulation.

## AIRFLOW CHECK

Clear vents of ice and snow. Open vents to ensure airflow and prevent suffocation if systems fail



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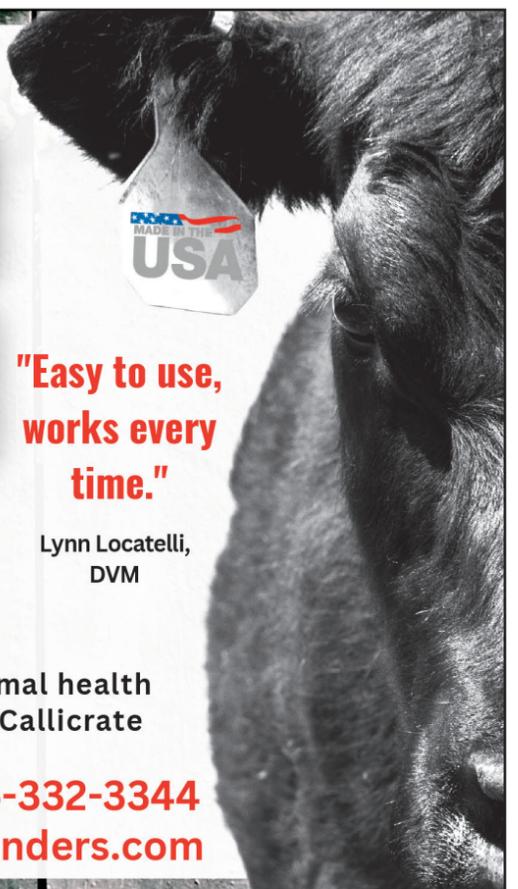
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# Farm to School Stars program to reward top districts that use locally grown foods

**TOM LATEK**  
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – Kentucky schools that use locally grown produce and proteins will soon be eligible to receive monetary awards through a new program being offered by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA).

The Kentucky Farm to School Stars Recognition Program will annually recognize three school districts that have demonstrated a commitment to increase purchases directly from Kentucky farmers.

“Increasing purchases of Kentucky foods directly impacts Kentucky farm families,” said

Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell. “In addition, the local purchases positively impact schools by growing the availability of nutritious and fresh food to our school-aged children. It really is a win for everyone.”

The program will recognize districts purchasing the highest percentage of locally grown products. Impacts will be measured by monitoring the districts’ purchases of locally produced proteins and produce for an entire school year.

Eligible districts must participate in the National School Lunch Program. Only Kentucky grown or raised products used during breakfast and

lunch during the regular school year are eligible, excluding milk.

Applications completed by school districts will be reviewed by a panel of KDA staff to select the top three districts. Winners for the 2024-2025 school year will be announced during October, which is National Farm to School Month. Incentive levels will be \$10,000, \$8,000 and \$6,000 for first, second and third place, respectively. The awards are to be spent on local food purchases for the 2025-26 school year.

KDA will use Ag Tag funds to award the winning school districts. Ag Tag funds come from the voluntary donations Kentuckians pay



each year when renewing their farm license plate. The donations are divided equally among Kentucky 4-H, Kentucky FFA and KDA. Last year, donations reached a record high of \$931,201.80.

“Each year, KDA makes a promise to reinvest its share of the funds into our agriculture community,” Shell noted. “This year we are keeping that promise by investing into our youngest generation – our

children.” More information about the Stars Recognition Program and the application process will be available on KDA’s website soon. The application deadline is July 31, 2025.

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**2013 CASE IH MAGNUM 260**  
 Serial Number: ZCRD09209  
 MFWD, 2517 hours, suspended front axle, 4 SCV, 1000 PTO, quick hitch, AFS Pro 700 mon.  
**\$129,500**



**2015 CASE IH 6140**  
 Serial Number: YEG012772  
 Combine, 4WD, 2301/1597 hours, lateral tilt, 800/32 front tires, chopper w/twin disc spreader  
**\$119,500**



**2014 CASE IH MAGNUM 340**  
 Serial Number: ZERD03784  
 MFW, 3761 hours, 380/34 front duals, 5 SCV, 1000 PTO, quick hitch, AG GPS vantage display  
**\$115,000**



**JOHN DEERE 4630**  
 Serial Number: 1N04630XJC0023545  
 600 gal. sprayer, 2671 hours, 80' booms, 3 way nozzle bodies, 15' spacing, 5 section cut off  
**\$74,500**



**2011 CASE IH STEIGER 450 HD**  
 Serial Number: STEIGER 450 HD  
 4WD, 7871 hours, 1000 PTO, 16 sp power shift, LHR, 480/95R50 duals, 4 SCV  
**\$70,000**



**2012 CASE IH 8230**  
 Serial Number: YCG215784  
 Combine, 4WD, 3801/3087 hours, 520/42 duals, 28L rears, chopper with high capacity spreader  
**\$69,500**



**2011 CASE IH STEIGER 400**  
 Serial Number: ZBF125873  
 HD, 4 WD, 8778 hours, 480/80R50 duals, 4 SCV, 1000 PTO, 16 speed powershift, LHR  
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**2020 JOHN DEERE 708C**  
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**2008 JOHN DEERE 1890 CCS**  
 Serial Number: A01890C725751  
 36', 7.5 in. spacing, w/JD 1910 air cart, 195 BU, rebuilt two years ago  
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**2023 JOHN DEERE 5060E**  
 Serial Number: 1PY5060ETPR101604  
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**2015 JOHN DEERE 635FD**  
 Serial Number: 1H0635FDAF0775497  
 Flex draper platform, 35 ft. cutting width, \*Wagon not included  
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**CASE IH RMX340**  
 Serial Number: YED077331  
 Disk, good used condition, 25 foot, 7.5" spacing, rolling basket on rear  
**\$27,500**



**CASE IH RMX340**  
 Serial Number: YED077331  
 25' disk, 7.5" spacing, rolling basket on rear, harrow  
**\$27,500**



**2018 CASE IH 3020**  
 Serial Number: YJH231903  
 30' cutting width, Stock Number 2644  
**\$24,500**



**2016 JOHN DEERE 5065E**  
 Serial Number: 1PY5065ECF4113391  
 MFWD, canopy, 562 hours, 1 SCV, 540 PTO, 9 speed, rear hydraulics, 65 HP  
**\$21,500**



**2016 JOHN DEERE 5055E**  
 Serial Number: 1PY5055EHGG100916  
 MFWD, ROPS w/canopy, 456 hours, 9.5-24 front tires, 16.9-28 rear tires, 2 SCV, 540 PTO, 12 speed  
**\$21,500**



**2014 CASE IH MAGNUM 340**  
 Serial Number: YSD040204  
 Corn head, knife rolls, hydraulic deck plates, Stock Number 2698  
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**2010 JOHN DEERE 635F**  
 Serial Number: 1H00635FJA0736692  
 Flex platform, 35 ft. cutting width, Stock Number 2577  
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**2009 JOHN DEERE 630F**  
 Serial Number: H00630F730512  
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**2004 JOHN DEERE 635F**  
 Serial Number: H00635F706208  
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**1998 JOHN DEERE 566**  
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UK researchers have unveiled the most comprehensive genetic study of North American Thoroughbred horses to date.

Photo by Carter Skaggs

# ‘DNA doesn’t lie’:

*New genetic study illuminates genetic diversity in North America thoroughbreds*

By Jordan Strickler

Lexington, Ky.— Researchers from the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment—in collaboration with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, University of Minnesota and University of California-Davis— have unveiled the most comprehensive genetic study of North American Thoroughbred horses to date. Published in Scientific Reports, the findings provide an essential baseline for understanding how selection in this iconic breed impacted genetic diversity over the past five decades.

Using whole-genome sequencing (WGS), the research team analyzed the DNA of 185 Thoroughbreds born between 1965 and 2020. Their work aimed to generate data that could be used to address concerns about inbreeding and genetic diversity within the breed, offering breeders valuable insights to guide future decisions.

“The impetus for this study was to quantify the extent of genetic variation and inbreeding in Thoroughbreds,” said Ernest Bailey, professor in the Maxwell H. Gluck Equine Research Center at Martin-Gatton CAFE and the study’s lead author. “By identifying trends, we’re equipping breeders with the data needed to make informed choices that preserve the breed’s health and performance.”

The study compared two groups of Thoroughbreds: 82

horses born between 1965 and 1986, and 103 horses born between 2000 and 2020.

Researchers identified over 14 million genetic variations, revealing that horses from the older generations carried slightly more genetic diversity, while horses in the younger generations showed modest increases in inbreeding.

“Selective breeding focuses on enhancing desirable traits like speed and stamina, but it can also increase the risk of amplifying harmful genetic variants,” said Jessica Petersen, associate professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Department of Animal Science. “Our data gives breeders a clearer roadmap and tools to navigate these challenges.”

One notable discovery was a 10% increase in the frequency of a genetic variant linked to the “speed gene,” which influences sprinting ability. This trend reflects a shift in breeding priorities toward shorter-distance races.

“DNA doesn’t lie,” said Ted Kalbfleisch, professor in the Department of Veterinary Science and study co-author. “This change in the genome aligns with the growing popularity of shorter, faster races and demonstrates how breeding decisions leave measurable imprints on the genetic makeup of the breed.”

Despite concerns about declining health and durability in Thoroughbreds, the study found no evidence of genetic issues. By analyzing “runs of

homozygosity” (ROH)—stretches of identical DNA inherited from both parents—the researchers detected a slight rise in inbreeding in horses in the younger group but stressed that it isn’t inherently problematic.

“Inbreeding can help solidify positive traits, like speed or endurance,” Petersen said. “However, it’s also important to monitor and avoid harmful genetic combinations. With tools like WGS, scientists can proactively identify and manage risks before they impact the breed.”

The study’s practical applications are clear: by identifying genetic risks, it is possible that in the future breeders can test stallions and mares for harmful variants and adjust pairings to prevent inheritance. This approach protects the health of individual horses while preserving the breed’s athletic excellence.

“The data shows that breeders have done a good job,” Bailey said. “Genomic tools make this clear at the DNA level but are unlikely to replace a breeder’s insights and intuition in the quest to create a better racehorse. However, these are precisely the tools we need to monitor and respond to hereditary problems that may arise.”

The project was funded by the Koller Endowed Funds to the Veterinary Science Department at UK. The work was conducted in connection with Agricultural Experiment Station Projects at UK and University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



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# Agriculture Commissioner celebrates Lamb Month

FRANKFORT, Ky. – Commissioner of Agriculture Jonathan Shell celebrated Kentucky's sheep and lamb producers today when he signed a proclamation commemorating February as Lamb Month in Kentucky.

"The last several years many Kentucky farmers have chosen to add sheep to diversify their livestock options," Commissioner Shell said. "Packed with protein, lamb is the perfect lean meat for the dinner table. But it provides more than meat, sheep are an excellent source of milk and fiber as well. Every day, but this month in particular, we salute the value sheep and lamb add to our farms."

About 5 million sheep are raised by roughly 80,000 farmers and ranchers across the

United States. With more than 12 million acres of agriculture land in Kentucky, the Commonwealth is home to 75,000 head of sheep and lamb, a 7.1 percent increase in just one year. Those 75,000 are spread over more than 2,774 sheep producers who are dedicated to producing high quality products for consumers.

"Kentucky's sheep numbers continue to grow each year because more consumers are trying something different with lamb on their plates," said Harry Frederick, a sheep producer out of Tompkinsville and president of the Kentucky Sheep and Wool Producers Association. "We have sheep producers working hard to provide delicious, safe lamb to customers from Pikeville to

Owensboro. Our abundant grass and steady markets have allowed producers to expand their operations and provide more lamb. We encourage families to make lamb a regular part of their lives."

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

The Kentucky sheep industry adds more than \$7 million in revenue to

Kentucky's agriculture receipts. For 2024, market lambs and sheep increased by more than 7 percent, with higher numbers of breeding stock in inventory. The market lamb inventory was the highest level on record for Kentucky. With solid markets, an increase in retail demand, growing grazing opportunities in the state, and increased value added opportunities for wool, this industry is expected to keep growing into the future.

February serves as a reminder of the great versatility and value of sheep and lamb. In addition to lamb being a source of protein, zinc, selenium and B vitamin, it's also a good source of iron and riboflavin. Numerous products and byproducts also come from sheep, including



Commissioner of Agriculture Jonathan Shell, seated center, named February as Lamb Month in Kentucky during a proclamation signing today at The Still at Blue Rook Distillery in Danville. Joining Commissioner Shell were members of the Kentucky Sheep and Goat Development Office and representatives from the sheep industry. (Kentucky Department of Agriculture)

milk, fiber for wool, and lanolin, a natural moisturizer. Across the world, farmers also use sheep to combat noxious weeds on their property, promote healthy forests, and prevent wildfires.

To celebrate Lamb Month, purchase lamb from your local grocery store, specialty shop,

farmers' market, or butcher shop. The Kentucky Sheep and Goat Development Office offers information on its website with tips cooking the lean meat. The website also offers a buyer's guide for lamb at: <https://www.kysheepandgoat.org/on-your-plate>.

## 29th Annual 2025 Spring Farm Auction ONLINE ONLY Saturday, March 1st • 10 AM CST

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

DAS will take consignments from Saturday, Feb. 22nd through Thursday, Feb. 27th from 7 AM til 5 PM. **NO CONSIGNMENTS TAKEN ON FRIDAY FEBRUARY 28TH OR ON AUCTION DAY!** Please bring a list and good description of items being consigned. Each day, items will be updated and available for the online auction. Items can be viewed at the 4-H Center Friday March 1st and on auction day, March 1st. The staff will be present if you have any questions. For more information, please call or look on our [website at https://dasonlineauctions.hibid.com/](https://dasonlineauctions.hibid.com/).

**TERMS:** A 10% buyer's premium will be charged to help with the additional cost of an online sale. A credit card is required to sign up to bid through Dasonlineauctions.hibid.com. When the online auction closes, you will receive an invoice by email (about 30 minutes after the conclusion of auction) for items you win. when you pick up your items, you can **pay with cash, check, or credit card** (3% charge). Indiana 7% state sales tax will be charged (Exemption forms will be available). All items need to be paid for by Monday, March 3rd. If items are not paid for on Monday, March 3rd, your credit card will be charged. Items can be picked up 1 hour after the auction is complete and invoices are emailed. Sunday March 2nd through Tuesday, March 4th 9 AM to 9PM loaders will be available.

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# Which tractor is best for you?



by **Teresa Ann Pearson**  
Farmers' Quarterly Writer

You just bought the property you been dreaming of, you have a farmhouse, barn and a large field for your animals and maybe even more for crops. Now comes the hard work.

Now you need the right tools and equipment for the work ahead. To have a fully functioning farm you need a tractor to do the mowing, hauling, heavy lifting, digging and other chores.

Tractors provide the means to handle the jobs required in keeping up a large farm property, but buying and operating one of these machines

can be intimidating.

Here are tips to assess your needs and find the tractor to make managing your property successful.

In calculating your need for a tractor, consider the size of your acreage, the terrain, your animal population and your management practices.

A garden tractor may provide enough power to help out with the chores on properties as large as about five acres. They are more maneuverable for small grazing areas, and a garden tractor with 16 to 18 horsepower can pull some implements.

However, your property exceeds five acres, if the terrain is rugged or if you regularly do chores demanding more horsepower, you may need a larger tractor.

For a grazing-based farm, whether it's for cattle or horses, mowing is essential for the pasture and for weed control.

First write out a job list you expect the tractor to perform, and let that be your guide. Farm equipment dealers are the primary resources in deciding which tractor will best to do the jobs. Most small farm owners choose compact tractors with 16 to 45 horsepower.

Exactly where you fit in that power range

depends on your plans.

Talk to a reliable dealer and tell him what you plan to do, how much property you have and what animals you plan to keep.

Invest in a little more tractor than your job list demands. If you buy the bare-minimum horsepower, the machine will be in a constant state of strain and more likely to break down. Take a realistic look at what you plan to do with your tractor.

Once you have figured out which tractor you need, then you have to pair it with implements.

The equipment you select needs to be matched with the tractor in size, power source and capacity. Your dealer can help you with those choices as well.

Owning a farm, large or small, is a wonderful and rewarding adventure in life. Just be sure you get the proper equipment you need to be successful, and enjoy the ride!

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# Kentucky agriculture expects highs and lows in 2025

*Kentucky farmers face uncertainty in 2025, with grain farmers possibly facing struggles under low prices. However, livestock producers could benefit from strong cattle markets*

By Jordan Strickler

Lexington, Ky.— While 2024 provided a mixed bag of economic factors resulting in a projected slight 3.3% increase in cash receipts nearing a \$8.3 billion record, Kentucky farmers face a multitude of challenges heading into 2025.

According to University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment economists and extension specialists, 2025 will be a critical year for agriculture, following a couple of years of falling incomes, tightening finances and geopolitical uncertainties.

“While Kentucky crop receipts are forecast to fall by nearly 13% in 2024, we are projecting that Kentucky livestock receipts will increase by around 17% this year on the heels of strong cattle prices and continued growth in our poultry and equine markets,” said Department of Agricultural Economics professor Will Snell. “Consequently, our estimate of Kentucky ag cash receipts for 2024 may challenge the record high level of \$8.3 billion recorded in 2022.”

Official totals for 2024 receipts will be released by USDA next September.

Although these figures highlight the resilience of the state’s diverse agricultural economy, farmers are contending with rising input costs, reduced government payments and low grain prices that collectively weigh heavily on profitability, according to Snell.

“Even with anticipated higher cash receipts, net farm income for Kentucky farmers will likely follow national downward trends in response to high input costs and limited government payments,” he said.

## *Kentucky’s current and future financial performance*

The key to a farm’s long-term financial survival is profitability.

Net farm income (NFI) counts the value of production minus the cost of production for the year. This measure of profitability directly influences the financial well-being of the farm and family involved. This data is pulled from commercial crop farms participating in the Kentucky Farm Business Management Program (KFBM), which assists member farms with their financial decision-making.

KFBM’s insights reveal the depth of financial strain facing many producers.

“Farm profitability has always been cyclical,” said Jerry Pierce, KFBM

program coordinator. “This current cycle saw NFI peak in 2021, with a steady decline over the last two years as commodity prices have softened and costs have surged. We see this trend in 2024 and it will likely continue next year as well.”

KFBM data showed that total costs per acre increased by 23% in 2022 and remained elevated in 2024, even as commodity prices began to drop. As a result, NFI has fallen, and liabilities are rising. The average farm’s working capital ratio, a key measure of liquidity, is eroding.

“The average working capital ratio was just above 2:1 at the end of 2023, a healthy level, but falling NFI and rising current liabilities are putting pressure on many operations,” Pierce said.

The Capital Replacement and Term Debt Margin, a reflection of how much NFI remains in the farm after covering family living and principal payments, dropped from \$348,702 in 2022 to just \$99,643 in 2023. This sharp decline indicates real challenges in meeting obligations while maintaining operations.

Debt-to-asset ratios remain favorable for most Kentucky farms, with the average staying below 30%, reflecting long-term solvency. However, increasing short-term liabilities are straining liquidity.

Farm household spending reflects these pressures. Total family living expenditures fell by 9% in 2023, with cuts in durable goods purchases and personal vehicles offset by rising medical and insurance costs.

“While Kentucky farms are generally well-positioned in terms of solvency, tightening cash flows and rising liabilities make this a concerning financial environment,” Pierce said.

Row crops present challenges from low prices and oversupply

The crop economy faced significant headwinds in 2024, with grain receipts leading the decline. Inflation-adjusted prices for corn, soybeans and wheat are near historical lows, leaving many producers struggling to break even.

“Inflation-adjusted prices are near an all-time low, creating a tough outlook for the foreseeable future,” said Grant Gardner, grain economics assistant extension professor. “Many producers are likely seeing red ink on their balance sheets. Some may have yielded their way out of it, but drought-stricken areas are likely struggling.”

According to Gardner, corn prices are expected to increase slightly as

supplies decline later in the year, though no major catalysts for a significant shift are apparent.

“We have too much supply in corn, and demand is consistent. Marginal price increases might happen, but nothing large is on the horizon,” he said.

Soybeans face a similar oversupply situation, though increasing domestic crush capacity offers some long-term promise. Crush demand is expanding, but it only kept pace with U.S. supply increases this year.

Wheat markets remain a mixed picture, with U.S. supplies up but global shortages creating potential export-driven price increases.

“If wheat prices rise, it will likely be driven by exports to countries in low-stock situations, such as members of the European Union,” Gardner said.

## *Livestock offered major support in 2024*

Livestock receipts are expected to surge by 16.8% in 2024, with tight national cattle supplies driving feeder cattle values \$30–\$50 per cwt higher than in 2023.

“The U.S. cowherd is at a 63-year low, and that tight supply has supported strong cattle prices in Kentucky,” said extension specialist Kenny Burdine. “Lower feed costs led to heavier harvest weights and worked to sustain beef production despite smaller calf crops.”

Poultry production remains Kentucky’s largest agricultural commodity, leading farm-level receipts. Wholesale broiler prices rose by 4%, with modest production increases bolstering the sector. Cases of avian influenza have been lower this year, which helped maintain stability in the poultry market.

Additionally, dairy producers enjoyed one of their most profitable years in recent memory.

“Higher farm-level milk prices and lower feed costs led to a substantially better year for dairy producers in 2024,” Burdine said. “Margins were as high as they’ve been since 2014, and while prices may moderate slightly in 2025, the outlook remains favorable.”

The equine market demonstrated stability, with Keeneland sales increasing by 3%. Even with a 2% drop in mares bred, receipts are likely to be a bit higher in 2024, driven by stronger sales totals. This performance is encouraging moving into 2025.

The hog sector also showed improvement, with production efficiency and a 6% rise in Eastern Cornbelt hog prices

driving higher returns.

“Pork exports have continued to be an unexpected bright spot,” Burdine said, “They helped offset some of the challenges in domestic markets.”

## *Forestry sector sees declining timber values and workforce shortages*

Kentucky’s forestry sector faced another tough year in 2024, with its economic contribution declining to \$12.3 billion from \$13.9 billion in 2023. Continued inflation, lack of movement in new home construction and fears over future demand have resulted in several mills closing, one of which was the second-largest mill in Eastern Kentucky. This all culminated in weakened demand for hardwood products, leading to declining timber values.

“The value of an acre of harvested timber fell from \$22,308 in 2023 to \$19,468 this year,” said Jeffrey Stringer, Forestry and Natural Resources professor and chair. “While white oak stave logs remain relatively stable, other species like yellow-poplar and red oak have seen significant declines.”

The logging workforce shortage adds further strain to the sector’s long-term viability.

“Many forest industries depend on a steady timber supply, and without enough loggers, the sector faces significant risks,” Stringer said.

Programs like “ForestryWorks,” which aim to introduce high school students to forestry careers, are a step forward but will take time to yield results.

Stringer is not optimistic about the new year.

“Industry sources indicate significant softening of demand in the fourth quarter of 2024 that is expected to continue into 2025,” he said. “Unfortunately, this does not bode well for harvesting, stumpage values and landowners needing to sell timber.”

## *Specialty crops and greenhouse contributions held the line*

The specialty crop sector in Kentucky remained relatively steady in 2024, with fruits, vegetables and greenhouse production contributing approximately \$200 million in cash receipts. While auction activity pointed to slightly higher prices for fruits and vegetables, poor growing conditions, including early flooding in Eastern Kentucky and late-season drought, limited production and quality.

“We saw a mix of good prices but lower yields,” said Tim Woods, Center for Crop Diversification

extension professor. “Fall crops, in particular, were hit hard by Hurricane Helene which made it tough for open-field production to bounce back.”

Nursery production faced its own challenges, with high interest rates dampening enthusiasm for property improvements and housing starts remaining low.

“Retail garden centers in Kentucky did okay, but inflation put a damper on these types of discretionary purchases,” Woods said. “Overall, we’re looking at numbers close to those of 2023.”

Controlled environment agriculture continued to disrupt the specialty crop landscape, with large-scale greenhouse facilities in Morehead, Richmond, Berea and Somerset moving forward despite the bankruptcy and reorganization of AppHarvest.

Woods said, despite this, the sector likely contributed an additional \$30–\$50 million in 2024, pushing total specialty crop sales above the \$200 million mark for the first time.

However, he also stated that while controlled environment agriculture holds promise, its financial sustainability remains uncertain.

“The production and sales from these facilities are impressive, but profitability is another question,” Woods said. “It’s a wild card for our relatively small specialty crop space, but it doesn’t significantly move the needle on Kentucky’s overall agricultural cash receipts.”

Looking ahead to 2025, Woods expressed optimism.

“Better weather could make a big difference next year, especially as demand for local products and agritourism continues to grow,” he said. “We’re also seeing strong growth in wholesale production statewide and a slightly improved economic environment for retail garden centers. These factors could push specialty crop revenues to \$275–\$300 million, with greenhouses contributing another \$30–\$50 million on top of that.”

## *Tobacco Continues to Slide*

“Despite some weather challenges, Kentucky’s tobacco crop will be decent, with higher prices and good quality, but the overall industry continues to shrink in the midst of increasing declines in U.S. cigarette and snuff sales,” Snell said.

Globally burley supplies remain relatively tight, but declining product sales are narrowing the supply deficit. Consequently, burley needs by cigarette

manufacturers are falling. However, contract volumes for individual producers next year may remain near 2024 levels due to attrition as burley farmers continue to exit due to narrowing profit margins.

Dark tobacco volume continues to be threatened by the increasing sales of nicotine pouches replacing snuff sales, causing expected continued reduction in dark tobacco acreages.

“Collectively, the value of Kentucky tobacco production may fall below \$200 million for 2024-2025, its lowest level since the 1950s as tobacco falls to less than 3% of the state’s ag cash receipts,” Snell said.

## *What’s in store for 2025?*

Kentucky farmers are entering 2025 with significant uncertainty, particularly grain producers, who face continued price pressures. Grain markets show little indication of recovery unless a major global weather event reduces the oversupply. Tight cash flows and rental rates that are slow to adjust compound these challenges.

However, livestock producers, especially in the cattle market, can expect relatively high prices to persist as the industry awaits signs of expansion in herd sizes. The anticipated strong livestock sector could help maintain overall Kentucky ag cash receipts to remain above \$8 billion in 2025.

The broader agricultural outlook also hinges on numerous policy and geopolitical factors.

“The potential for increased tariffs raises questions about the impact on U.S. competitiveness and inflation while the structure of the next farm bill remains unclear,” Snell said.

Energy and immigration policies, as well as the Federal Reserve’s approach to interest rates, could influence land values, farm balance sheets and the strength of the U.S. dollar. Export markets, especially China’s role and the diversification of U.S. agricultural exports, will be pivotal in shaping future demand.

Geopolitical events, such as the conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East, continue to create ripple effects for global agricultural markets. As businesses and farmers alike navigate these uncertainties, Kentucky’s agricultural economy will depend on strategic resilience and adaptability to maintain its critical role in the state’s economic landscape.

For regular industry updates and news from the UK Department of Agricultural Economics, visit <https://agecon.ca.uky.edu/econ-policy-updates>.

# UK launching agricultural leadership certificate for spring 2025 semester

LEXINGTON, Ky. (KT) – In an effort to help meet the needs of tomorrow’s workforce, the University of Kentucky’s Martin Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment (CAFE) will be offering a certificate in agricultural leadership starting in the spring 2025 semester.

The new certificate aims to create a pathway for students seeking to enter the agriculture industry by teaching transdisciplinary

skills through leadership development and hands-on experiences.

Bill Gatton, who bestowed a \$100 million gift through the Bill Gatton Foundation in 2023, believed that experiential learning is the foundation for helping students open doors for success and create breakthroughs in their lives.

“Students will see how having a foundation in leadership, teamwork and collaboration are transferable skills towards advancing in

the agriculture industry and beyond. Leading, serving and supporting are all critical skills no matter where you are and where you are going,” said Savannah Robin, lecturer for career and professional development within the Department of Agricultural Economics at Martin-Gatton CAFE. “The electives are transdisciplinary, making them accessible and value adding, setting up students to be successful in many

areas.” This 12-credit hour certificate is open to all students and majors, focusing on creating well-rounded individuals for any industry. Students are required to complete three core courses in leadership foundations, experience and applications. Additionally, students must satisfy two courses from a suite of available electives, one in leadership and another related to communications.

Available leadership electives include

courses in agriculture, equine or environmental law, human resource management, agriculture and food policy, government and public policy, community leadership and more. Communication electives include agricultural product marketing and sales, professional development in agriculture, community media writing, multimedia writing, persuasive speaking and more.

Upon completion of the certificate,

students will have stronger skills in project management, critical thinking, problem solving, communication and information processing.

To learn more and to apply to the Agricultural Leadership Certificate at Martin-Gatton CAFE, visit <https://www.uky.edu/academics/undergraduate-certificate/martin-gatton-college-agriculture-food-environment/agricultural-leadership>.

## Career opportunities in the agricultural sector

Individuals approach their careers in various ways. Some may aspire to climb the corporate ladder, while others may pursue a career that affords them ample personal time to spend how they see fit. Many individuals look for careers that afford them ample opportunities to work in the great outdoors, which could make the agricultural sector an appealing industry.

Talented individuals with an array of diverse skills dot the agricultural sector landscape, and the following are just a few of the many careers to consider within this vital industry.

**• Equipment technician:** Data from the career experts at Indeed indicates agricultural equipment technicians earn an average salary around \$65,000 per year. Agricultural equipment technicians maintain and repair existing machines and install new ones, among their many responsibilities.



**• Purchasing agent:** An agricultural purchasing agent buys products and raw materials at wholesale. Indeed notes that purchasing agents often must meet specific purchasing quotas for processors and work with various clients who supply an array of agricultural products. The national average salary for agricultural purchasing agents is around \$51,000 annually.

**• Warehouse manager:** The receiving, shipping and storage of agricultural materials is overseen by a warehouse manager. Indeed notes that these professionals now routinely utilize artificial intelligence products to manage inventory.

Warehouse managers must know and adhere to safety procedures and guidelines that dictate how materials and products are stored. The average salary of a warehouse manager is around \$52,000 per year.

**• Sales:** Like every industry, the agricultural sector requires talented sales personnel. Agricultural sales reps sell materials and products and identify the needs of potential customers. Agricultural sales reps may spend ample time on the road at trade shows. Doing so allows them to identify customers as well as their needs and wants, and promote their own products and services. An ability to foster strong and trusting interpersonal relationships is

invaluable for agricultural sales reps, who Indeed reports earn an average of about \$60,000 per year.

**• Environmental engineer:** Environmental engineers play pivotal roles within the industry, and could become even more vital in the decades ahead as the effects of climate change become more apparent.

Environmental engineers design and implement solutions that occur on agricultural sites, helping to address issues such as unhealthy soil, insufficient drainage and inefficiencies, among other concerns. A career as an environmental engineer within the agricultural industry can be rewarding and lucrative, with Indeed noting that the average annual salary for this position is a little more than \$77,000.

These are just some of the career paths individuals can consider as they explore the agricultural sector.

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Haying	Breeding

# 18th annual Pastures Please!! set for February 27 in Lexington

*A cornerstone education program for horse owners since 2007, this year's event will focus on drone technology, pasture quality, equine health and more*

By Jordan Strickler

Lexington, Ky.— Although Kentucky is in the middle of winter, horse owners and farm managers are already looking ahead to lush green pastures and productive grazing.

To help them prepare, the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, a part of the UK Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, will host the 18th annual Pastures Please!! from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. ET on Thursday, Feb. 27 at the Fayette County Extension Office. The event is free and open to the public.

Launched in 2007, Pastures Please!! has

served as a foundational educational program, offering timely and practical information to horse owners. This year's event continues the tradition of focusing on best management practices for pastures and forages, helping equine operations remain profitable and sustainable.

“Central Kentucky extension agents for agriculture and natural resources, along with UK Equine extension specialist Bob Coleman, have planned an outstanding program to help horse farm managers and operators efficiently manage their pastures,” said Linda McClanahan, Mercer

County agriculture and natural resources agent.

The evening begins with a complimentary meal at 5:30 p.m. At 6 p.m., Brett Reese will open the program by exploring the feasibility and benefits of using drone technology for pasture management.

“The opportunity to discuss drone technology with an agricultural application is very timely,” Coleman said. “The technology exists, but understanding where and how to use it is important.”

Following that session, Bill Witt will discuss common and emerging weeds that can compromise pasture quality and equine health. Krista



This year's event continues the tradition of focusing on best management practices for pastures and forages, helping equine operations remain profitable and sustainable.

Photo by Mark Pearson

Lea will then highlight the available cost-share opportunities to help horse owners invest in improving their pastures.

RSVPs are encouraged. Please call 859-257-5582 to reserve a spot or learn more about additional extension educational

opportunities. The Fayette County extension office is located at 1140 Harry Sykes Way, Lexington, KY 40504.

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# UK student is 'one in a million' as she begins journey as National FFA Officer

*Caroline Groth, a student in the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, will serve as Eastern Region Vice President in 2025*

**By Bailey Vandiver**

LEXINGTON, Ky.—

After being selected as Eastern Region Vice President for the National FFA Organization, Caroline Groth hung her navy FFA jacket at the foot of her bed so it was the first thing she saw every morning.

"I get emotional," said Groth, a sophomore studying agricultural education and agricultural economics at the University of Kentucky.

The six-person officer team was announced at the National FFA Convention & Expo in October 2024. Groth doesn't even remember her name being called, but she

does remember hearing Kentucky—so she ran on stage.

"The moment was completely surreal," Groth said. "I was going through pictures, and I don't think my mouth is closed in a single picture. I'm just standing there, jaw dropped on the floor, because that's something I worked for my entire life."

The journey began in high school, when Groth served in leadership roles at the chapter and regional levels. Last year, she served as Kentucky FFA state president, then she was selected as a national officer candidate. Candidates went through a two-week interview process with a nominating

committee that included personal interviews, media rounds and facilitating a workshop.

"We have over one million FFA members across the nation, and this year, I get the honor of basically getting to be one in a million," Groth said.

Groth will not be enrolled in classes for 2025, as she travels nationally and internationally to serve FFA members and the organization through providing workshops, giving speeches, going to FFA camps and visiting business and industry leaders.

Groth said she is most excited for member interaction, as meeting people was her favorite part of being state president.

"I've come to learn that I like to take all these little things about people that I love, and I like to incorporate them into my leadership style and become the best version of myself that I can," Groth said. "So I'm just excited to meet a bunch of new people and make a million friends across the U.S."

In every interaction, Groth will be representing not just FFA but also Kentucky and the University of Kentucky. Groth is the ninth UK student to be a national officer in FFA's 98-year history.

"We're very excited, very proud of that," said Stacy Vincent, professor in the Department of Community and

Leadership Development. "It is a good representation that the University of Kentucky and the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment produce high-quality ambassadors for the field of agriculture."

Groth said her classes helped her understand "hot topics" in agriculture and answer questions during the interview process. Groth also spent time preparing with 2021 Martin-Gatton CAFE graduate Gracie Furnish Reynolds, the last UK student to serve as Eastern Region Vice President.

Reynolds is a Cynthiana native who now lives in Hickman County and

helps her husband Jonathan, who served as a Kentucky FFA state officer alongside her, with Springhill Farms. She said it's "hard to describe" the year full of learning, service and self-growth that she spent in the role. Groth has so many things to look forward to, Reynolds said, like stepping out of her comfort zone, meeting amazing people and traveling for an exhausting but worthwhile 300 days.

"Caroline is a truly genuine and talented leader, and the organization is fortunate to have her," Reynolds said. "She's so genuine and

*see OFFICER, from page B13*

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**OFFICER,**  
from page B12

very friendly, and people are drawn to her kindness and fun personality. She also has a great passion for agriculture and the ability to advocate for our industry."

Vincent said it's Caroline's humility, faith-based mentality, goal-driven attitude and ability to understand people that make her well-suited to this opportunity.

"There couldn't be a more deserving role model than Caroline to receive such an honor," Vincent said.

At the beginning of her year as Eastern Region Vice President, Groth is grateful for all who have helped her get here and excited for what comes next.

"I'm this culmination of all the people who have poured into me, and now I get to go and lead," Groth said. "I'm just honored."

Learn more about National FFA

Officers at <https://www.ffa.org/national-ffa-officers/>. Learn more about Martin-Gatton CAFE programs at <https://www.ca.uky.edu/>.

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



Caroline Groth speaks at her send-off party hosted by the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment on Wednesday, Nov. 20, 2024, at the University of Kentucky.

Photo by Zoey Ortega

*"There couldn't be a more deserving role model than Caroline to receive such an honor,"*

— STACY VINCENT

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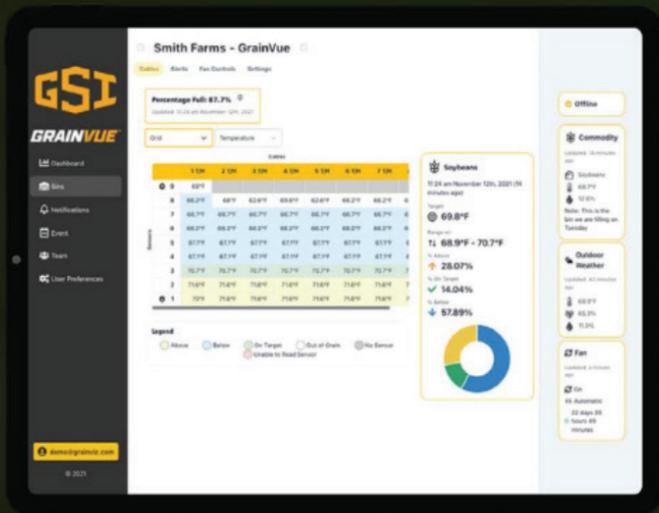
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# Troxler takes oath for 6th term at North Carolina's Agriculture Commissioner



Steve Troxler, left, pledges his oath for a sixth term as the commissioner of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services on Thursday, Feb. 6, 2025, at the State Fairgrounds in Raleigh, N.C. His wife Sharon holds the Bible and state Supreme Court Justice Trey Allen administers the oath.  
N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

By Alan Wooten  
The Center Square

(The Center Square) – With the swearing in Thursday of North Carolina Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler, the Council of State oaths are complete.

Troxler is in his sixth term, second longest active to Secretary of State Elaine Marshall, and he'll be working with the fifth different governor of that time. The oath was administered by state

Supreme Court Justice Trey Allen Paul Newby during the Southern Farm Show after being postponed by bad weather last month.

Troxler, a Republican, ended 105 consecutive years of the Democratic Party holding the office. His 20 years completed in office only trails Jim Graham (1964-2000) for length of tenure.

The now synonymous marketing slogan "Got To Be NC" was

started by Troxler in 2005. More than 2,500 companies are part of the program.

Troxler is campaigning on his record of "developing new markets for North Carolina farm products, preserving working farms and protecting the state's food supply." When he began his tenure, the economic impact of agriculture and agribusiness industries was \$59

see **TROXLER**,  
page C2

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**TROXLER,**  
*from page C1*

billion. Today it is \$111.1 billion annually, including \$18 billion growth since 2022.

North Carolina is No. 1 nationally each in all tobacco, flue-cured tobacco, sweet potatoes, and poultry and eggs. It is No. 2 in Christmas tree sales, production of turkeys, and food-size trout sold. It is No. 3

in cucumbers and hogs, No. 4 in peanuts and broilers (chicken), and No. 5 in cotton.

About 42,500 farms are operated on 8.1 million acres.

Twenty divisions and more than 2,000 employees are within the Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services. The commissioner “directs implementation of more than 75 different laws and

programs,” the website for the department says. The department is charged with protecting, maintaining and enhancing “the ability of agriculture to produce an adequate supply of food and fiber in North Carolina” and is responsible for regulatory enforcement, and promotion of health, safety and welfare of all citizens.



Welcoming alfalfa and hay producers from across the Commonwealth, this year’s event will focus on pests, improving quality and marketing hay.

Photo by Matt Barton

## Kentucky Alfalfa and Stored Forage Conference set for Feb. 25

By Christopher Carney

LEXINGTON, Ky.— Farmers, forage specialists and agricultural professionals will gather at the 2025 Kentucky Alfalfa and Stored Forage Conference—hosted by the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment’s Forage Extension Program and the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council—to explore the latest research, best practices and emerging trends in alfalfa and stored forage.

Themed “Alfalfa Updates and Producing Grass Hay for Premium Markets,” the

daylong conference runs 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. EST on Feb. 25 at the Fayette County Extension Office.

Centered around all things alfalfa, hay and storage and forage species, this year’s program offers a mix of presentations, including armyworms and their control methods, new alfalfa varieties, what horse owners want in quality hay, updates on hay contests, unique forage species emerging markets and more. Participants will also hear a producer panel on ways to improve hay production and increase operation profitability.

“We look forward to welcoming alfalfa

and hay producers from across the Commonwealth,” said Ray Smith, forage and extension specialist. “There’s no better time to brush up on the latest results from variety trials, marketing and pest management than before growing season starts.”

Registration costs \$45 per participant and closes Feb. 24. To register and purchase online, visit <https://KYAlfalfa2025.eventbrite.com>.

To register by mail, send a \$45 payable to KFGC at the following address: Krista Lea, N222 Agriculture North, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546-0091. Please specify “Alfalfa and Stored Forage” in the check memo line.

# Illinois Dept. of Ag launches new I-Cover Program

SPRINGFIELD, IL – The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) secured a \$7 million USDA grant to launch I-COVER, the Infield Conservation for Operationalizing Vital Ecosystem Resilience Program, which offers cost-share/financial incentives to producers and landowners who are new adopters of cover crops or who utilize new techniques for earlier establishment of cover crops.

The multi-state USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant between Illinois, Indiana and Iowa establishes a three-year program for cover crops planted in 2025, 2026 and 2027.

“Research shows that cover crops improve soil health, reduce erosion, increase drought resistance, and reduce pests, weeds and diseases,” said Jerry Costello II, Illinois Director of Agriculture. “Illinois is home to some of the most fertile soil in the world, and I encourage farmers to participate in this important new program to conserve and protect it.”

Pre-enrollment and applications are available online. Visit the IDOA website at [agr.illinois.gov/](http://agr.illinois.gov/) and select the I-COVER Program link on the home page.

#### Pre-Enrollment Opens

8 a.m. CST, Monday, February 10, 2025

#### Program Opens

(Applications can be submitted)

8 a.m. CST, Monday, March 3, 2025

#### Program Closes

11:59 p.m. CST, Friday, March 14, 2025

The following rates will be available to selected applications for the following practice scenarios for each of the three years of the program. Scenario rates vary based on species number and type.

\$61.13/acre for one or more cover crop species, winter killed

\$85.65/acre for single cover crop species, spring terminated

\$105.40/acre for one or more cover crop species, spring terminated

IDOA will select applications on a first come, first served basis, such that the first application per county will be prioritized, then all remaining applications will be prioritized on a first

come, first served basis for qualified and verified applicants. IDOA will verify applications and respective acreage, and local Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) staff will check selected applicants' USDA Farm Bill

eligibility, work with applicants on conservation planning, verify practice implementation, and assist with payment and reporting documents. Program viability is subject to availability of federal funds.

A copy of the CCC-902, FSA Subsidiary Report and Producer Farm Data or proof of control of the land will be needed, if the applicant is selected.

Acres must not be currently enrolled in other state, federal or private programs to

implement cover crops (e.g. EQIP, CSP, Fall Covers for Spring Savings or any other program that may include state of federal funds) and applicants must have control of the land for the life of the program.

Program viability is

subject to availability of federal funds.

For program details, visit the I-COVER Program Rules at [agr.illinois.gov/resources/landwater/i-cover.html](http://agr.illinois.gov/resources/landwater/i-cover.html) or contact IDOA by email at [agr.icover@illinois.gov](mailto:agr.icover@illinois.gov) or by phone at (217) 782-6297.

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# Purdue report shows farmers optimistic about 2025

By Steve Bittenbender  
The Center Square contributor

(The Center Square) – American farmers remain bullish on their futures, and fewer of them fear the prospects of a trade war. That's according to survey results released Tuesday by the Purdue Center for Commercial Agriculture.

January's Purdue University-CME Group Ag Economy Barometer Index moved to 141 in January, up 5 points from December's survey. A year ago, the index was at 106, the lowest it had been for the first month of the year since 2016.

"U.S. producers expect 2025 to be better than 2024, as the Farm Financial Performance Index is at its highest level since late 2021," the report stated.

While farmers remain highly optimistic about the future of their operations, they have also warmed up regarding the current state of their farms. The future expectation index was at 156 last month, up three points from December, and the current expectation index jumped 13 points to 111.

The report cited improving crop prices as a reason for the



A farmer planting with a tractor near Merna.

increase in current expectations.

James Mintert, the director of the Purdue Center for Commercial Agriculture, noted in a statement the current index has increased sharply since September, when it was at 68.

While the report said there is still "significant concern among U.S. farmers that a trade war could break out," the percentage of respondents believing such an incident is likely or very likely is 40% (15% very likely and 25% likely). That's actually down from December's results of 48% (16% and 32%). The percentage of growers who believe

rising tensions among trading partners is not likely went from 21% in December (4% very unlikely, 17% unlikely) to 29% last month (11% and 18%).

January's barometer survey took place from Jan. 13-17, days before President Donald Trump's inauguration. It was also well before the president announced tariff increases for China, Canada and Mexico, although the White House reported Monday that temporary deals were in place with Canada and Mexico to keep those 25% increases from taking effect for a month.

Foreign trade remains the primary issue for most

farmers, with 42% saying it will be the most important policy for the farm over the next five years.

More farmers are expecting to take out a larger loan this year compared to last year, with 18% indicating that last month versus 15% in January 2024. The majority of farmers who anticipate borrowing more, 56%, say it will be because of increased costs.

Nearly a quarter of those farmers, 23%, told Purdue it's because they need to carry over existing debt. Only 17% of farmers who received larger loans last year needed them for that reason.

# Legislation banning certain food additives advancing in Springfield

By Kevin Bessler  
The Center Square

(The Center Square) – As critics contend it is setting a dangerous precedent; legislation is advancing through the Illinois General Assembly that would ban certain food additives.

The Illinois Food Safety Act in Senate Bill 93 would ban specific food additives from being used in the manufacturing, delivering, distributing, holding or selling of food products. The additives include potassium bromate and propylparaben.

"Consumers in Illinois should have full faith and trust in the foods and products they are consuming," said the bill's sponsor, state Sen. Willie Preston, D-Chicago. "Right now, Illinoisans are consuming harmful products without realizing it. We must focus on consumer safety and offer clear directives to food manufactures in order to keep all of Illinois healthy."

Bryan Hitchcock with the Illinois-based Institute of Food Technologists says a state enacting food safety legislation that conflicts with U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations is a dicey proposition.

"The inconsistencies between Illinois and other states enacting



Illinois state Sen. Willie Preston, D-Chicago

Photo courtesy of BlueRoomStream

legislation that directly conflicts with federal regulations reinforces the critical need for science and technology in government," said Hitchcock.

The Illinois Manufacturers Association has gone on record voicing opposition to the measure.

"The FDA has a stringent process for evaluating food safety that has been proven to work," said Donovan Griffith, vice president of Government Affairs for the IMA. "Illinois should not undermine these safeguards. Food safety should be left to the experts."

In January, the Food and Drug Administration announced it was banning the use of Red No. 3, a synthetic dye that gives food and drinks their bright red cherry color but has been linked to cancer in animals.

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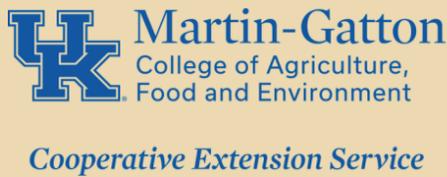
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# NMS to offer variety of seminars for 2025

As the 2025 National Farm Machinery Show kicks off in Louisville, visitors will have the opportunity to learn from a variety of experts on topics that affect the agriculture industry. These seminars are free and open to the public.

## 2025 SEMINAR SCHEDULE

**Wednesday, February 12**

**8:00 a.m. – Stability & Hope in an Unstable Time**

Presented by the Fellowship of Christian Farmers, International, South Wing C 106

**11:00 a.m. – Tar Spot**

Tar Spot has spread to new areas creating concern. What agronomic practices could you implement to help reduce the impact of Tar Spot?

Presented by Beck's, South Wing B 103

**11:00 a.m. – Why Farmers Must Fight Unscientific Climate & Environmental Extremism**

Owen Jennings: Director, Methane Science Accord. Affiliate of Groundswell, South Wing C 106

**12:30 p.m. – Practical Farm Research/Agronomy Roundtable**

Bring your lunch and questions, this is your chance to get personal with Beck's Practical Farm Research and Agronomy experts! Presented by Beck's, South Wing B 103

**1:00 p.m. – Automation**

Presented by Farm Progress, South Wing B 104

**2:00 p.m. – Drone vs Ground Rig: How to Fine-Tune the Sprayer Pass**

Is a spray drone as effective as a ground rig for fungicide applications? We will examine multilocation data comparing a spray drone to a ground rig and their effects on yield and ROI. We will also look at small adjustments to make your fungicide pass

more efficient.

Presented by Beck's, South Wing B 103

**2:30 – 3:30 pm - 2025 Global Commodity Market & Weather Outlook**

Presenters: Rhett Montgomery, Lead Analyst, DTN & John Baranick, Ag Meteorologist, DTN.

Moderator: Greg Horstmeier, editor-in-chief, DTN

Presented by DTN, South Wing C 104

**Thursday, February 13**

**8:00 am – Stability & Hope in an Unstable Time**

Fellowship of Christian Farmers, International, South Wing C 106

**8:30 – 10:00 am – 2025 Global Commodity Market & Weather Outlook**

Presenters: Rhett Montgomery, Lead Analyst, DTN & John Baranick, Ag Meteorologist, DTN.

Moderator: Greg Horstmeier, editor-in-chief, DTN

Presented by DTN, South Wing C 104

**10:00 am – Unleash BioSolutions to Power Yield on Every Acre**

Presented by Novonesis, South Wing C 101

**10:30 – 12:00 pm – Successful Cover Crop Strategies: From Carbon Capture to Farm Program Benefits**

Moderator: Chris Clayton, senior ag policy editor, DTN

Presenters: Panel of Invited Industry Guests

Presented by DTN, South Wing C 104

**11:00 am – Drone vs Ground Rig: How to Fine-Tune the Sprayer Pass.**

Is a spray drone as effective as a ground rig for fungicide applications? We will examine multilocation data comparing a spray drone to a ground rig and their effects on yield and ROI. We will also look at small adjustments to make your fungicide pass more efficient.

Presented by Beck's, South Wing B 103.

**11:00 a.m. – How Rising CO2 Levels Support Global Agriculture**

Dan Janzen MAG: Executive Director Fellowship of Christian Farmers Int., South Wing C 106

**12:30 pm – Practical Farm Research/Agronomy Roundtable**

Bring your lunch and questions, this is your chance to get personal with Beck's Practical Farm Research and Agronomy experts!

Presented by Beck's, South Wing B 103

**1:00 pm – Power of BioSolutions in Animal Health**

Presented by Novonesis, South Wing C 101

**1:00 pm – Machinery/Equipment Market Outlook**

Presented by Farm Progress, South Wing B 104

**2:00 pm – Low-Cost Practical Farm Research**

Are you concerned about low commodity prices for the 2025 growing season? Join the Becks Agronomy Team to explore free and low-cost management options to maximize your return on investment!

Presented by Beck's, South Wing B 103

**3:00 pm – Supercharge N Fixation in Soybean**

Presented by Novonesis, South Wing C 101

**4:00 pm – Drones**

Presented by Farm Progress, South Wing B 104

**Friday, February 14**

**8:00 am – Stability & Hope in an Unstable Time**

Fellowship of Christian Farmers, International, South Wing C 106

**10:00 am – Unleash BioSolutions to Power Yield on Every Acre**

Presented by Novonesis, South Wing C 101

**10:00 – 11:00 am**

see SEMINARS, page C7

**SEMINARS,**  
from page C6

**– 2025 Global  
Commodity Market  
& Weather Outlook**

Presenters: Rhett Montgomery, Lead Analyst, DTN & John Baranick, Ag Meteorologist, DTN.  
Moderator: Greg Horstmeier, editor-in-chief, DTN  
Presented by DTN, South Wing C 104

**11:00 am – Practical  
Farm Research for  
your Operation**

Come hear about Practical Farm Research results that can help you improve your profitability.  
Presented by Beck's, South Wing B 103

**11:00 a.m. –  
Navigating the  
Intersection of Faith,  
Science, & Ideology**

Dan Janzen MAG:  
Executive Director

Fellowship of Christian Farmers Int., South Wing C 106

**12:30 pm –  
Practical Farm  
Research/Agronomy  
Roundtable**

Bring your lunch and questions, this is your chance to get personal with Beck's Practical Farm Research and Agronomy experts!  
Presented by Beck's, South Wing B 103

**1:00 pm – AI in  
Agriculture**

Presented by Farm Progress, South Wing B 104

**1:00 pm – Power of  
BioSolutions in  
Ethanol**

Presented by Novonosis, South Wing C 101

**2:00 pm – Low-Cost  
Practical Farm  
Research**

Are you concerned

about low commodity prices for the 2025 growing season? Join the Becks Agronomy Team to explore free and low-cost management options to maximize your return on investment!

Sponsored by Beck's, South Wing B 103

**Saturday,  
February 15**

**8:00 am – Stability  
& Hope in an  
Unstable Time**

Fellowship of Christian Farmers, International, South Wing C 106

**11:00 a.m. – Cutting  
Through the Myths  
& Fads in  
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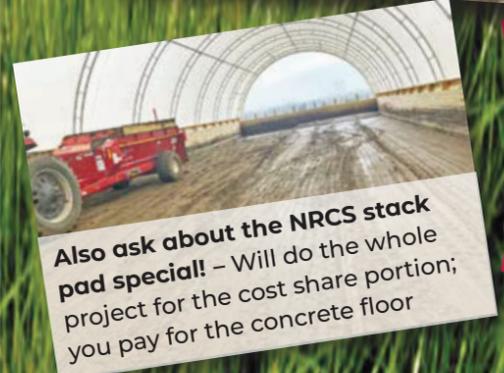
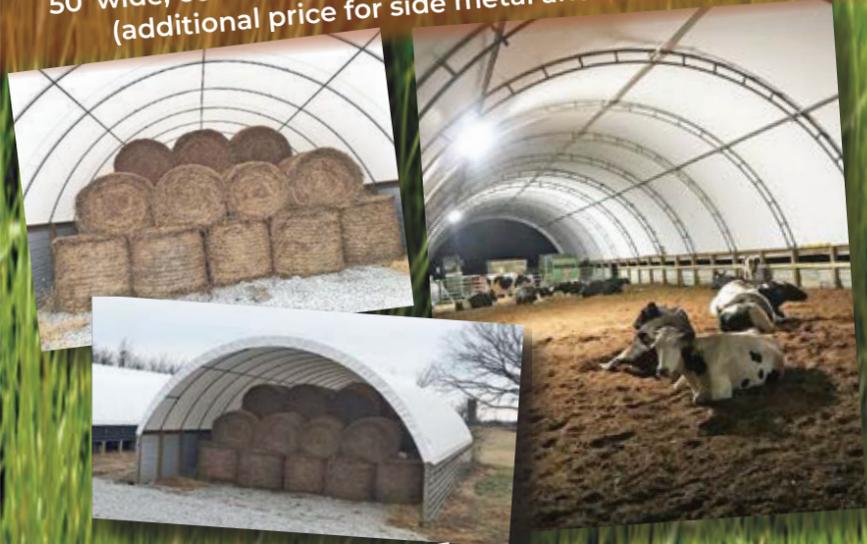


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Paul Jasa (pictured left) receiving the 2024 Shirley Philips No-Till award from Chad Lee (pictured right).

# Paul Jasa honored with No-Till agriculture award for 45 years of dedication to the field

*The University of Kentucky 2024 Shirley Philips No-Till award was presented to Paul Jasa, recognizing significant contributions to no-till agriculture spanning more than four decades*

By Christopher Carney

LEXINGTON, Ky.— University of Nebraska-Lincoln extension engineer Paul Jasa was recently honored with the Shirley H. Phillips No-Till Award by the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

This annual award is given by the UK Department of Plant and Soil Sciences to individuals whose career has been devoted to promoting no-till practices—commemorating Shirley H. Phillips' legacy work as a UK extension specialist who helped develop no-till agriculture over 60 years ago in Kentucky.

"Thank you to the University of Kentucky and it's an honor to receive this award from a group of some of the original researchers on no-till," Jasa said. "I see this work as more long-term and helping producers be profitable, building soil health and reducing risk to the environment. Farming is a business, and we must treat it that way."

No-till is a technique for growing crops and plants

without disturbing the soil through tillage, often improving soil structure and increasing the amount of water available to plants. Widely adopted in the United States and abroad, no-till is significant in countering climate change.

"Paul has worked for more than 40 years on planting equipment and crop rotations in no-tillage systems," said Chad Lee, Grain and Forage Center of Excellence director and extension professor at Martin-Gatton CAFE. "In Kentucky, the primary goal of no-till is to reduce soil erosion. In Nebraska, the primary goal is to conserve and preserve water. Paul has worked with, and learned from, numerous producers on converting to no-till. Nebraska now has more acres of no-till corn than any other state in the U.S."

At the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Jasa develops and conducts educational programs related to crop production that improve profitability, build soil health and reduce risks to the environment. With his experiences gained from research

and extension activities, Jasa is considered an expert in the Midwest on no-till planting equipment and system management to protect and build the soil.

*Biography*  
 Receiving both his B.S. and M.S. degrees in agricultural engineering from the University of Nebraska, Jasa has been conducting research and working with planting equipment and tillage system evaluations at the University since 1978, full-time since 1981.

Jasa has worked with soil and water conservation, residue management, erosion reduction, water management, crop rotations and, more recently, cover crops and soil health. His presentations stress the systems approach to crop production and the long-term benefits of continuous no-till.

In 1983, Jasa began his extension career working with a five-year project to expand the use of conservation tillage to conserve soil, water, and energy in three targeted areas in eastern Nebraska with soil erosion problems. He worked

see JASA, page C9



Paul Jasa providing a demonstration.

Photo provided by Paul Jasa

**JASA,**  
from page C8

with approximately 30 to 50 producers each year, helping them adopt no-till, or another conservation tillage system, comparing it to their previous tillage system. A large, rotating boom rainfall simulator was built to support the project and used to show the effectiveness of crop residue and other conservation practices reducing erosion and runoff in real-field situations.

Jasa has traveled internationally extensively to share his no-till knowledge and experiences. He has hosted visitors and bus tours from many U.S. states and several foreign countries at the University of Nebraska Rogers Memorial Farm. His long-term history with the farm, with continuous no-till production since 1981, with seeding equipment and cover crops, showcases Jasa's field work and research for over 40 years.

Jasa received the 1998 No-Till Innovator Award for Research and Education, which

honors farmers, researchers, organizations and others who have identified ways to no-till more effectively, more economically, and with better impact on the environment.

In 2011, No-Till Farmer named Jasa as one of the 40 No-Till Legends who have made tremendous contributions to the growth and popularity of no-till. In 2017, No-Till Farmer recognized Jasa as one of the 25 No-Till Legends.

Jasa was inducted to The Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement in 2015 and received the Honor Award in 2013 from the Nebraska Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society for his outstanding leadership in the facilitation, information and education of no-till and cover cropping systems, no-till equipment and tillage systems evaluations. Jasa also received the national Harold and Kay Scholl Excellence in Conservation Award from the Soil and Water Conservation Society in 2018,

recognizing his efforts providing direct and personal delivery for conservation planning and technical assistance.

Jasa was named Engineer of the Year in 2012 by the Nebraska Section of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers for his continued no-till research and extension activities. In 2010 Paul received the Water Guardian Award from the Nebraska Agri-Business Association for his educational activities to protect and conserve Nebraska's water resources.

For no-till going forward, Jasa offers some words of wisdom.

"There is no recipe for no-till farming. Today, it's really all about soil health and no-till is a tool," Jasa said. "The benefits come in the long-term, not in the short-term, and it's only a failure if you don't learn from your mistakes along the way."

Learn more about the UK Department of Plant and Soil Science's awards at <https://pss.ca.uky.edu/awards>.



Paul Jasa leading a soil demonstration at the University of Nebraska.

Photo provided by Paul Jasa

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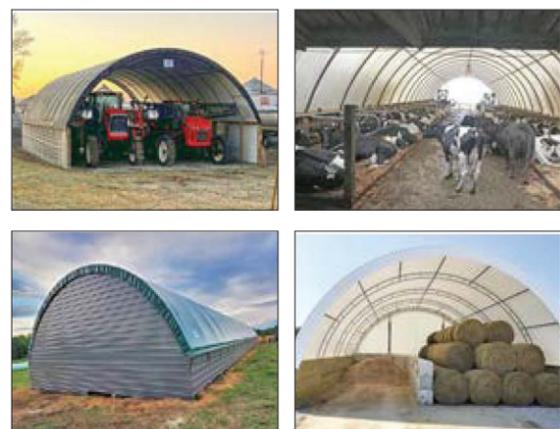
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# 2025 NFMS Exhibitor List

Pages C2-C14

Exhibitor Name	Exhibitor Booth Number	Exhibit Hall	Exhibitor Booth Number	Exhibit Hall	
1st Choice Seeds	7353	South Wing B	Boral Steel Roofing Products	3042	West Wing
360 Yield Center	5068	East Hall	Boss Trailers	3521	West Wing
3-Point Ink	1233	West Hall	Bourbon Brooke Candles	GC500	Upstairs - South Wing C
4G Soil Restoration LLC	1116	West Hall	Bourgault Industries Ltd.	4432	North Wing
502 Engraving LLC	3040	West Wing	Boyd Cat	8404	South Wing C
A&I Products	6719	South Wing A	Brandt Industries USA Ltd.	8604	South Wing C
A&I Products	8414	South Wing C	Breezy Mills	4348	North Wing
A-1 Implements & Distributing LLC	1119	West Hall	BRENDA'S	GC1000	Upstairs - South Wing C
A1 Mist Sprayer Resources	5129	East Hall	Bridon USA	2736	Pavilion
Abilene Machine, LLC	7855	South Wing B	BRITESPAN Building Systems	3388	West Wing
Abilene Machine, LLC	1312	West Hall	Brock Grain Systems	6037	South Wing A
Accelo Racewear	15	Broadbent Arena	Buckeye Hydraulics, Inc.	4548	North Wing
Accurate Ag Drones	1323	West Hall	Bugnot NA	7051	South Wing B
Accu-Steel	8144	South Wing C	Bulk Seed Systems	1229	West Hall
ACE PUMP CORPORATION	4338	North Wing	Bullsnot!	2158	Pavilion
ACI Distributors	4948	North Wing	Burr King Manufacturing Inc	5115	East Hall
Action Equipment Sales	4930	North Wing	Busch Equipment Company	3266	West Wing
ADM Fertilizer	7003	South Wing B	Bushel	3018	West Wing
Adorn Permanent Jewelry LLC	GC804	Upstairs - South Wing C	Bush Hog, LLC	8672	South Wing C
ADS	6212	South Wing A	Byron Seeds L L C	1606	West Hall
ADS Bulk Seed Buggy	2400	Pavilion	C & M (Checchi & Magli) Transplanters/ Accu-Steel	8144	South Wing C
Ag Bag by RCI	5315	East Hall	Calian Agriculture	1404	West Hall
Ag Express Electronics	7050	South Wing B	CALMAR Soil Testing labs	4254	North Wing
Ag Focus	4266	North Wing	Calmer Corn Heads	6712	South Wing A
Ag Leader Technology	7865	South Wing B	Calmer Corn Heads	4530	North Wing
AG Revolution / AGCO	7801	South Wing B	CAP Bros MotorSports LLC	14	Broadbent Arena
Ag Spray Equipment	4796	North Wing	Capello SRL	8827	South Wing C
AGI	7423	South Wing B	CapstanAG	8072	South Wing C
Agmetrix	7960	South Wing B	Carbo-Tech America LLC	7459	South Wing B
Agrem LLC	7768	South Wing B	Case IH	6849	South Wing A
Agri Spray Drones	3444	West Wing	Central City Scale Inc	6204	South Wing A
Agricision Ltd	1122	West Hall	Central Petroleum Co. - Cen-Pe-Co Lubricants	2724	Pavilion
Agri-Cover, Inc.	6310	South Wing A	CFC Distributors LLC	3224	West Wing
AgriGold	8803	South Wing C	CGB Agri Financial Services, Inc.	7655	South Wing B
Agri-King, Inc.	7159	South Wing B	Chain Locker	4365	North Wing
Agrimatics	4639	North Wing	Challenger Lifts	2405	Pavilion
Agri-Products Inc	7999	South Wing B	Chalmers Innovations	1226	West Hall
Agri-SC/Four Star Services, Inc.	4377	North Wing	Channel	4462	North Wing
Agri-Speed Hitch	7255	South Wing B	Chief Agri - Kearney, NE	8578	South Wing C
Agro-Chem	3574	West Wing	Chinook Hay Systems	8299	South Wing C
AgroEcoPower	8068	South Wing C	Chirxloc	GC406	Upstairs - South Wing C
AKE Safety Equipment	7048	South Wing B	Christianson Systems, Inc.	4671	North Wing
AKE Safety Equipment	1408	West Hall	CLAAS FARMPOINT	4700	North Wing
Alberto G Moro SRL/ASIMA	7254	South Wing B	Clarks Ag Supply	7044	South Wing B
Alkota Cleaning Systems Inc	2415	Pavilion	Clarks Ag Supply	2207	Pavilion
All States Ag Parts	7558	South Wing B	Classic Green	1029	West Hall
Altoz/Central Boiler	8213	South Wing C	Clean Burn, LLC	2104	Pavilion
AM and PM Hemp Farm	3067	West Wing	Cleanfix North America	8700	South Wing C
AMADAS	3134	West Wing	Components Plus LLC	4429	North Wing
American Angus Association	4323	North Wing	Concept AgriTek	8060	South Wing C
American Farm Mortgage & Financial Services	4859	North Wing	Concept Industries Ltd	4485	North Wing
Anderson Group	8534	South Wing C	Cone Guard LLC	4252	North Wing
Animat	8800	South Wing C	Conrad American	4624	North Wing
Apache Palco Henke Buffalo (Global)	2229	Pavilion	Construction Implements Depot, INC	8949	South Wing C
Apex Turbo	4772	North Wing	Continental Refining Company	8799	South Wing C
Apexx Drone Solutions LLC	3330	West Wing	Conveyair by Thor Manufacturing Ltd.	7651	South Wing B
APV America	4232	North Wing	Copperhead Ag	3366	West Wing
Aqua Blast	3030	West Wing	Cordex North America, Inc	7978	South Wing B
ARAG Precision Technology Inc	4487	North Wing	Core Holistics	4380	North Wing
Aran Dovme	4683	North Wing	Core Holistics	4681	North Wing
Arcusin / Steffen Systems	3200	West Wing	CORRECT-A-STEP	GC207	Upstairs - South Wing C
Ariens & Gravely	8250	South Wing C	Corrison Defence	1129	West Hall
Arrowquip	3538	West Wing	Country Enterprises	4653	North Wing
Artex Manufacturing	3384	West Wing	Cowco/SI Feeders	2200	Pavilion
Ashland	3236	West Wing	Cowherd	2010	Pavilion
Asteria Labs Inc	GC510	Upstairs - South Wing C	Cox Shavings Inc.	3093	West Wing
AuctionTime.com	7860	South Wing B	Coyote MFG.	4923	North Wing
Automation Zone	1402	West Hall	CPC Feeds	2440	Pavilion
Axle Surgeons	4661	North Wing	Crafts by Jarrett	GC1104	Upstairs - South Wing C
B Built Manufacturing	4349	North Wing	Craigmyle & Son Farm, Llc	4672	North Wing
B&W Trailer Hitches	4872	North Wing	Crary Industries	6208	South Wing A
Bad Boy Mowers	7403	South Wing B	Crary Industries	6209	South Wing A
Bad Dog Tools	1400	West Hall	Creamer Metal Products, LLC	6106	South Wing A
BAD Gear & Off-Road	4242	North Wing	Cressoni - CressCo USA Inc.	4248	North Wing
BAD Gear & Off-Road	2750	Pavilion	Cruiser Products	3023	West Wing
BAD Gear & Off-Road	4550	North Wing	Custer Products Limited	1117	West Hall
Baker Auctions	7555	South Wing B	Custom Ag Concepts Manufacturing	6215	South Wing A
Bald is Beautiful LLC	GC1100	West Hall	Custom Farm Toys	GC409	Upstairs - South Wing C
Balzer Inc.	3198	West Wing	Cutco Cutlery	5224	East Hall
Bambauer Equipment LLC	2219	Pavilion	D & B Sales Inc	1001	West Hall
Banjo Corporation	7756	South Wing B	D & B Sales Inc	1232	West Hall
Barrels Etc.	GC402	Upstairs - South Wing C	D & B Sales Inc	4439	North Wing
Base Camp Leasing	5121	East Hall	Dakota Micro	4665	North Wing
Battery Saver / Granite Digital	4760	North Wing	Dan the Sign Man	1033	West Hall
Battle of the Bluegrass	4272	North Wing	Dan-O's Seasoning	GC1009	Upstairs - South Wing C
Bauer Built MFG	4842	North Wing	Danuser	4480	North Wing
Bauer North America - FAN Separator	4453	North Wing	Decra Roofing Systems	3079	West Wing
Baughman Tile Co.	4355	North Wing	Degelman	8104	South Wing C
Bayshore Sales	1003	West Hall	Dekalb/Asgrow	6027	South Wing A
Bazooka Farmstar	5201	East Hall	DeltAg Formulations	4786	North Wing
Beck's Hybrids	6805	South Wing A	Delux Mfg. Co.	7057	South Wing B
Beer Money Pulling Team	3194	West Wing	Deutz-Fahr (PFG America)	4984	North Wing
BEFCO	6413	South Wing A	DewEze Manufacturing	5221	East Hall
Belltec Industries Inc	6311	South Wing A	Diamond Doors	3610	West Wing
Best Bale	2304	Pavilion	DICKEY-john	8046	South Wing C
Best Soles	GC302	Upstairs - South Wing C	Diesel Dogs	GC710	Upstairs - South Wing C
Bestway AG	3589	West Wing	DigiFarm VBN	6016	South Wing A
Bestway AG	3488	West Wing	Dinamica Generale U S, Inc.	6011	South Wing A
Better Garden Tools	4341	North Wing	Dion-Ag Inc	8426	South Wing C
Bickett Farm Tiling	8036	South Wing C	Direct Enterprises, Inc.	4580	North Wing
Bidadoo	1218	West Hall	DiscountHydraulicchouse.com	4659	North Wing
Bierman Sales	7856	South Wing B	DK Tanks	4852	North Wing
Bigiron Auction Company	5215	East Hall	Doda USA, Inc.	8526	South Wing C
Bischoff Equipment	5230	East Hall	Downhome Collectibles	GC600	Upstairs - South Wing C
Bissell Commercial	2423	Pavilion	Doyle Equipment Manufacturing Company	8644	South Wing C
BKT USA, Inc.	6407	South Wing A	Drago	6305	South Wing A
Bloemendaal Research Enterprises	2766	Pavilion	Drinking Post Automatic Waterers	4381	North Wing
Bluegrass Ag Workers Services	7961	South Wing B	Duck Foot Parts Inc.	6119	South Wing A
BND Flagpole Sales	4776	North Wing	DUKES A&W ENTERPRISES	4880	North Wing
BoltsandNuts.com	3041	West Wing	Dultmeier Sales	1707	West Hall
Booms And Sons Ag Parts LLC	5135	East Hall	Duo Lift Mfg. Co., Inc	3356	West Wing
			Dura Products	8086	South Wing C
			Duratech Industries/Haybuster	6227	South Wing A

Eagle Plastics	4524	North Wing	H.E. & M Inc.	4961	North Wing
Earth Gen 215	4657	North Wing	Haisley Machine	3334	West Wing
Eastern Kentucky University	W2	West Hall	Halderman Farm Management and Real Estate Svc.	3077	West Wing
Easy Farm - Vertical Solutions	4356	North Wing	Hall Manufacturing	3549	West Wing
EASYFIX	3089	West Wing	Halverson Wood Products, Inc.	3037	West Wing
Edison Lighting Supply	6116	South Wing A	Harbin High Tech Machinery Intl Trade Co. Ltd.	3034	West Wing
EkotuningCom	1107	West Hall	HARDI North America	8204	South Wing C
Elgin Service Center	1426	West Hall	Harvest International	7953	South Wing B
EliteTruck.com	2803	Pavilion	Harvest Solar	8130	South Wing C
Ellegood Farm Products/For-Most	2416	Pavilion	Haviland Drainage Products Co Inc	5210	East Hall
Elmer's Manufacturing	8218	South Wing C	Hays-LTI	3566	West Wing
Energy Curve	7351	South Wing B	Head Honchos	2712	Pavilion
EnergyLogic	1224	West Hall	Heartland Clutch	7988	South Wing B
Eparts, Inc.	4652	North Wing	Heatmasters/Steeltech Inc	1301	West Hall
Eparts, Inc.	3176	West Wing	Helton Inc	2424	Pavilion
Equipment Technologies	8176	South Wing C	Hensley Fabricating & Equipment, Inc.	3340	West Wing
Estes Performance Concave	7669	South Wing B	Herd Pro	3069	West Wing
Exapta Solutions	6813	South Wing A	Herschel Parts	4825	North Wing
Excel Sportswear	6019	South Wing A	Heuring Crop Insurance	6412	South Wing A
Express Steel	1331	West Hall	Higgs Welding LLC	2216	Pavilion
Extreme industrial Coatings	2716	Pavilion	High Grade Mfg. Inc.	7654	South Wing B
Extrutech Plastics	4836	North Wing	HIGHER POWER HYDRAULIC DOORS	6015	South Wing A
E-Z Trail	3600	West Wing	Highline Manufacturing	3272	West Wing
EZEE Oil Kaddee	1110	West Hall	Hillbilly Jams and Jellies	GC403	Upstairs - South Wing C
Family Fragrance	GC203	Upstairs - South Wing C	Hillco Technologies, Inc	7562	South Wing B
Fantini - Hamilton Systems, Inc.	8300	South Wing C	HitchDoc Manufacturing	8050	South Wing C
Farm Bureau	4680	North Wing	Home 360 Company Limited	1127	West Hall
Farm Credit Mid-America	5207	East Hall	Honey Bee Manufacturing Ltd.	7401-2	South Wing B
Farm Power Distribution	1422	West Hall	Honeyville Metal, Inc.	6812	South Wing A
Farm Progress	SAL	South Wing B Hallway	Hooker Pumps	4354	North Wing
Farm Toy Display			Horizon Products/Zerk Zapper Tool	4857	North Wing
Farm World Newspaper	3087	West Wing Farmers Hot	Horsch LLC	4595	North Wing
Line	4373	North Wing	HOT SHOT'S SECRET	6709	South Wing A
FarmFact Software	1126	West Hall	Hud-Son Forest Equipment	1123	West Hall
FarmTalc	4357	North Wing	Hurricane Ditcher	8955	South Wing C
FarmTRX	6318	South Wing A	Hustler Equipment	4372	North Wing
FASS Diesel Fuel Systems	1118	West Hall	Hydrate with the Hintons	GC300	Upstairs - South Wing C
Fasse Valves	7997	South Wing B	Hytech Marketing	1406	West Hall
FAST AG SOLUTIONS	8458	South Wing C	Hytech Marketing	7163	South Wing B
Fastline Marketing Group	8881	South Wing C	I C S Consulting Service Inc	7361	South Wing B
Fellowship of Christian Farmers	6008	South Wing A	I-Beam Sliding Doors	7000	South Wing B
Fennig Equipment	7755	South Wing B	Ideal Farm Equipment	4334	North Wing
Fennig Equipment	3152	West Wing	Ihle Fabrications, LLC	3274	West Wing
Ferris / PACE	8544	South Wing C	Illinois Grain & Seed Equipment	2121	Pavilion
Fertilizer Dealer Supply	7364	South Wing B	IMD LLC	6021	South Wing A
Firefly Farms Botanical Wonder	GC806	Upstairs - South Wing C	Incinerators by Lewis Repair & Mfg	7164	South Wing B
First Financial Bank - Farm and Ranch Division	4831	North Wing	Industrial Tech Service LLC	2005	Pavilion
Fish Head Farms	7458	South Wing B	Innovative Forage Solutions	8002	South Wing C
Five Pack Creative	1027	West Hall	Intercomp	6605	South Wing A
Flax	6221	South Wing A	International Harvester Collectors Club - Chpt 10	1013	West Hall
Fleece Performance Engineering	5214	East Hall	International Stock Food	1416	West Hall
Flexxfinger OD Industries Inc.	4888	North Wing	Iron Bull Mfg. LLC	1221	West Hall
Flintec Inc	2714	Pavilion	IronCraft	4024	North Wing
Flitz International, Inc.	3091	West Wing	J&M Manufacturing Inc.	4048	North Wing
Flitz International, Inc.	7850	South Wing B	J.Assy	2742	Pavilion
Floyd's Wooden Animals	GC1008	Upstairs - South Wing C	Jamison Ag Repair/Upper Wheel Drive	7062	South Wing B
FMC	6030	South Wing A	Jansen Electronics	7456	South Wing B
Fox Factory	5040	East Hall	JCB Inc	4996	North Wing
Frank Winne & Son Inc.	1806	West Hall	Jenkins Iron and Steel	3182	West Wing
Fransgard Maskinfabrik A/S	7067	South Wing B	Jenkins Iron and Steel	5335	East Hall
Freedom Buildings	4375	North Wing	Jensen Equipment Company	4828	North Wing
French's Shoes & Boots	GC608	Upstairs - South Wing C	Jet Company, Inc.	2325	Pavilion
Fritsch Equipment and Services LLC	2320	Pavilion	JM Innovations Inc	3346	West Wing
Fuel Pro Trailers	2500	Pavilion	John Blue Company	2708	Pavilion
G&H Petroleum Enhancer	4347	North Wing	Johnson Mfg., Inc.	4675	North Wing
Gardner Inc.	5021	East Hall	Jordan Ag Supply	8038	South Wing C
Garfield - Tecnomec	5200	East Hall	JT Farm Toys	GC200	Upstairs - South Wing C
Gator Made Trailers	8444	South Wing C	K & M Manufacturing	1700	West Hall
GEA	7435	South Wing B	K&S / Bosch Lights	4647	North Wing
Gensco Aircraft Tires	7251	South Wing B	Kampert Ag LLC	2792	Pavilion
Geringhoff	4036	North Wing	Kann Manufacturing Corporation	2232	Pavilion
Get It To The Bin, Inc.	3015	West Wing	Kasco Manufacturing Co Inc	3436	West Wing
Global Track Warehouse	7054	South Wing B	Kate's Korner Kupboard LLC	GC408	Upstairs - South Wing C
Globeius	4447	North Wing	Kelley Manufacturing Co KMC	4734	North Wing
GMLS INDUSTRIES INC.	4885	North Wing	Kenove Farm Fence Supplies	4337	North Wing
Gorden Harvesting	6705	South Wing A	Kenova Kreations	GC1003	Upstairs - South Wing C
GoServ Global	4864	North Wing	Kentucky Cattlemen's Association	3054	West Wing
Graber Post Buildings	4838	North Wing	Kentucky Clutch / Tribco	7257	South Wing B
Graham Electric Planter	7261	South Wing B	Kentucky Community & Technical College System	2740	Pavilion
Grain Systems Distribution	8276-2	South Wing C	Kentucky Corn Growers Association	2317	Pavilion
Grasshopper Company	3166	West Wing	Kentucky Department of Agriculture	W3	West Hall
GrassWorks Manufacturing	7355	South Wing B	Kentucky Hoop Barns	6710	South Wing A
Great Plains Mfg., Inc.	6827	South Wing A	Kentucky Impliment LLC	4282	North Wing
Green Lighting Wholesale	1228	West Hall	Kentucky Operation Lifesaver	W1	West Hall
Greene Galvanized Stairs	7851	South Wing B	Kentucky Pork Producers	3036	West Wing
Greenleaf Technologies	6715	South Wing A	Kentucky Public Service Commission	7065	South Wing B
Greentech Manufacturing Inc - Crown Royal Stoves	3606	West Wing	Kentucky Soybean Board/Association	3186	West Wing
GREENWELL MFG LLC	7466	South Wing B	Kentucky State Police	3049	West Wing
Gro-Tec Inc	7155	South Wing B	Kile Machine and Manufacturing	6020	South Wing A
Growers Mineral Solutions	3011	West Wing	King Kutter Inc./Taylor Pittsburgh Mfg.	4438	North Wing
GS3 Quality Seed	4826	North Wing	Kinze Manufacturing	4406	North Wing
GTS North America Agri US	6449	South Wing A	KIOTI Tractor	4200	North Wing
Gun Grabber Products, Inc.	1808	West Hall	KMW	7551	South Wing B
GVM Inc	4284	North Wing	Kondex Corporation	7854	South Wing B
H&H Farm Machine Co.	2529	Pavilion	Kongskilde Industries	5302	East Hall
H&R Agri-Power	6005	South Wing A	Kooima Ag	2788	Pavilion
H&S Manufacturing Co Inc	8903	South Wing C	Krone NA Inc	6905	South Wing A
H.D. Steel Targets	4280	North Wing	KSCanuck	GC404	Upstairs - South Wing C

**TREE CITY METAL SALES**



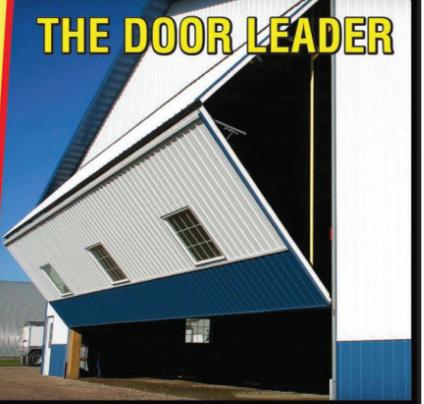
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KSi	8476	South Wing C	PaperPie	GC110	Upstairs - South Wing C
Kubota Tractor Corporation	7023	South Wing B	Partners Brand Seed	6024	South Wing A
Kuchar Combine Performance Combine Parts	2136	Pavilion	Parts Express	6006	South Wing A
Kuhn North America	4000	North Wing	Pasture Management Systems, Inc	1006	West Hall
KZValve, LLC	7360	South Wing B	Patriot Equipment / Minden Machine Inc.	8811	South Wing C
Laines Goats and Company	GC400	Upstairs - South Wing C	Patz Corporation	4726	North Wing
Lambton Conveyor Ltd	8572	South Wing C	Peach Lane	GC210	Upstairs - South Wing C
Lanair Products	7852	South Wing B	Peak Forage Solutions Inc.	2106	Pavilion
Lancer Laser Tech Ltd.	4651	North Wing	Pegasus Robotics	3426	West Wing
Land Pride - Division of Great Plains Mfg	7223	South Wing B	Penta Equipment	3300	West Wing
Landoll Company, LLC	6659	South Wing A	Pequea Machine Inc	5323	East Hall
Landoll Company, LLC	3400	West Wing	Performance Feeds	8100	South Wing C
Lankota	7165	South Wing B	Perma-Column	6104	South Wing A
Lawsen Equipment	2000	Pavilion	Pharm CBD, LLC	GC502	Upstairs - South Wing C
Leading Edge Industries	4238	North Wing	Pivot Bio	4448	North Wing
LeafFilter North of Kentucky, LLC	2786	Pavilion	Pneu-Tek Tire Tools	1424	West Hall
Leafguard of Louisville	2764	Pavilion	Poettinger US INC.	5227	East Hall
Legacy Steel Buildings	3448	West Wing	Poettinger US INC.	5227	East Hall
Legacy Trailers	3284	West Wing	Poly Tech Industries Inc	8911	South Wing C
Lepp Planter Pipes	4363	North Wing	Poseidon LLC	2768	Pavilion
Lewis Cattle Oilers	3014	West Wing	Powell Sales	2148	Pavilion
Liberty Mutual Insurance	3021	West Wing	Power Planter, Inc	4590	North Wing
Liebrecht Manufacturing	4456	North Wing	Power Service Products	4641	North Wing
Limbsaw Company	4890	North Wing	PowerLift Consultants	7461	South Wing B
LINAK	7660	South Wing B	PPI Equipment	4477	North Wing
Lindsay Corporation	4835	North Wing	Prairie Grain Analyzers Inc.	4685	North Wing
Liquitube Marketing International	2152	Pavilion	Praxidyn	4724	North Wing
Liquitube Marketing International	7958	South Wing B	Precision Engine Service LLC	1100	West Hall
Lock Jawz LLC	2811	Pavilion	Precision Fabrication	7154	South Wing B
Loftness Specialized Equipment	3550	West Wing	Precision Scale & Controls Inc	5105	East Hall
Loup Electronics	1520	West Hall	Premier Energy	1703	West Hall
LS Tractor USA	6649	South Wing A	Prescription Tillage Technology LLC	1524	West Hall
Lucky Buck Marvo Mineral	1220	West Hall	Preslar's Western Shop Inc	8624	South Wing C
Lundell Plastics	2118	Pavilion	Pride of the Farm / Advantage Feeders	4623	North Wing
Lynx Ag LLC	1500	West Hall	Pride Solutions May Wes	7971	South Wing B
MAC LTT INC	4702	North Wing	Priefert Mfg./CPC	2432	Pavilion
MacDon Industries Ltd	3206	West Wing	Pro Puller Tires	13	Broadbent Arena
Mad Hat Bar	GC506	Upstairs - South Wing C	Protexia	6615	South Wing A
Mahindra	4900	North Wing	ProTrakker Guidance Systems	4236	North Wing
Mainero USA & Dose Manufacturing	3456	West Wing	PSI Power, Inc	3628	West Wing
Man@Machine - Treffler	3007	West Wing	PTO Link	4449	North Wing
Mandako	3466	West Wing	PTX	4060	North Wing
Marathon Pipe Line LLC	4848	North Wing	Puck Custom Enterprises, Inc	7750	South Wing B
Marcrest Manufacturing Inc	3474	West Wing	Purdue University - National AgrAbility Project	4576	North Wing
Martin Industries LLC	8566	South Wing C	QC Supply	2008	Pavilion
Mary's Magnetic Magic Jewelry	GC209	Upstairs - South Wing C	QLF Agronomy	1131	West Hall
Mast Productions/Pit Express	8873	South Wing C	Quake LED	3046	West Wing
Mathews Company	8166	South Wing C	Quality Craft Tools	1113	West Hall
Mattracks	2444	Pavilion	Quality Craft Tools	1800	West Hall
Maverick Tile Finder Inc./Todd Schaeffer Equip	4566	North Wing	Quality Drills	6213	South Wing A
Maxam Tire NA	7665	South Wing B	R & K Pivots	7951	South Wing B
Maxco Lubricants	8032	South Wing C	R J Tool And Supply	7046	South Wing B
Mayslick Farm Supply	2782	Pavilion	R J Tool And Supply	2144	Pavilion
McBurney's Livestock Equipment	3390	West Wing	Raisch Farm Supply	1522	West Hall
Mccain Bros. Excavating, LLC & Simon Innovations	4400	North Wing	Ranch Hand Solar Lighting	1021	West Hall
McFarlane Manufacturing Co Inc	4972	North Wing	Rawhide Portable Corral, Inc.	3386	West Wing
McHale	4936	North Wing	Rayne Plane Inc	6219	South Wing A
McTavish Steelworks Workbenches	4871	North Wing	RCFarmarm	6707	South Wing A
MDS Manufacturing Co. Inc.	4638	North Wing	Real Harrows LLC	7250	South Wing B
Mechanical Transplanter Co LLC	3081	West Wing	Red Barn Associates	3374	West Wing
Meg-Mo Systems	7160	South Wing B	Red Barn Manufacturing LLC	6713	South Wing A
Meridian Manufacturing	8915	South Wing C	Red Board Systems	1011	West Hall
Metalcraft by K	2160	Pavilion	Red Haw Supply	12	Broadbent Arena
Metalcraft by K	2800	Pavilion	Red Wing Software	7657	South Wing B
Meyer Manufacturing Corp	8150	South Wing C	Redball	8500	South Wing C
Micro-Trak Systems, Inc.	4584	North Wing	Redekop Manufacturing	1208	West Hall
Mid-American Tool	2411	Pavilion	Reliance Power Parts	1305	West Hall
Mid-South Pressure Washers	2774	Pavilion	Remlinger Manufacturing	2520	Pavilion
Midwest Bioheat Fuel Alliance	4574	North Wing	RhinoAG Inc - Dixie Chopper	8654	South Wing C
Midwest Equipment & Supply Co	6105	South Wing A	Richfield industries	4658	North Wing
Midwest Rancher	2793	Pavilion	Richmond Brothers Equipment LLC	4378	North Wing
Millner-Haufen Tools	2754	Pavilion	Rim Guard Inc	4824	North Wing
Millner-Haufen Tools	8044	South Wing C	Ripco Ltd	8276	South Wing C
Milwaukee Tool	3636	West Wing	Ritchey Livestock Equipment	1025	West Hall
Monosem	5123	East Hall	Rock Valley Tractor Parts	4327	North Wing
Montana Post Driver LLC	3146	West Wing	Rodman Drill / Eppico	4423	North Wing
Monty's Plant Food Company	7765	South Wing B	Rostech Electronics	1430	West Hall
Moores Farm Toys	GC800	Upstairs - South Wing C	Roto-Mix LLC	3588	West Wing
Morgan's Fudge	2154	Upstairs - South Wing C	RSE Fabrication	3097	West Wing
Morton Buildings Inc	8935	South Wing C	Rursch Specialties	16	Broadbent Arena
Mr. Gs Kettle Corn	GC1007	Upstairs - South Wing C	Rut MFG	2110	Pavilion
MRCOOL LLC	3029	West Wing	S&S Diesel Motorsport	4686	North Wing
Mtn View Equipment	6317	South Wing A	S3 AWS Airbar	1200	West Hall
Mud Hog-TDS Drive	4963	North Wing	Salford Group Inc	7623	South Wing B
My Yield	7977	South Wing B	SaMASZ North America LLC	2006	Pavilion
National Equipment, Inc.	4359	North Wing	Saskatchewan Trade and Export Partnership	1206	West Hall
Natural Resources Conservation Service - USDA	7469	South Wing B	Scentsy - Page Scent, Inc	GC401	Upstairs - South Wing C
NDEco	7401-3	South Wing B	Schaeffer's Specialized Lubricants	7559	South Wing B
NDY Manufacturing, Inc.	4748	North Wing	Schaffert Mfg Co Inc	6319	South Wing A
Nealey Company	1516	West Hall	Scheid Diesel	4256	North Wing
Neat Companies	7151	South Wing B	Schlagel Manufacturing	3033	West Wing
Nectar of the Vine	GC405	Upstairs - South Wing C	Schrader Real Estate and Auction	2124	Pavilion
Needham AG Technologies LLC	7451	South Wing B	Schulte Industries Ltd.	3242	West Wing
New Ag Supply	4975	North Wing	Schumacher Company LC	6110	South Wing A
New Holland	6049	South Wing A	Schweiss Doors	4662	North Wing
New PECO Inc.	2225	Pavilion	Scooter Time Rentals	Freedom Hall Breeze Way	
NewFields Ag	2135	Pavilion	Seed Genetics Direct	4358	North Wing
Nichols Tillage Tools	2133	Pavilion	Selina Vaughan Studios	GC904	Upstairs - South Wing C
Nitrogen Sealing Systems	2306	Pavilion	Sensor-1	6218	South Wing A
Norden Mfg	6808	South Wing A	Seppi M USA	7265	South Wing B
Norden Mfg	6817	South Wing A	Shark Wheel Agriculture	2784	Pavilion
Norstar Industries	7659	South Wing B	Shaver Manufacturing Co	4960	North Wing
Norstar Industries	7661	South Wing B	Sheffield Financial, A division of Truist	7763	South Wing B
Northern Minnesota Machinery Sales	1130	West Hall	Shivvers Country Clipper	8851	South Wing C
Norwood Sales	7625	South Wing B	Shore Measuring Systems	2805	Pavilion
Norwood Sales	7603	South Wing B	Shoup Manufacturing Co	2211	Pavilion
Novonesis	7053	South Wing B	Show N Tell	GC900	Upstairs - South Wing C
Nuhn Industries	5301	East Hall	Show-Me Products	1412	West Hall
Nutra-Boss, Inc.	3010	West Wing	Show-Me Products	1418	West Hall
Oak and Olive	GC306	Upstairs - South Wing C	Show-Me Shortline Co.	8516	South Wing C
O'Connell Drainage by Legacy Equipment Co.	7981	South Wing B	Shur-Co	5137	East Hall
Ohio Valley Insurance	8099	South Wing C	ShurWrap	2706	Pavilion
Oregon Orchardgrass Seed & Clover Commission	6004	South Wing A	SI Distributing	6804	South Wing A
Oregon Ryegrass Seed Growers Commission	6000	South Wing A	SI Distributing	2242	Pavilion
Oregon Tall Fescue Commission	6002	South Wing A	Silver Stream Shelters	7055	South Wing B
Osgood Funding, Inc.	5212	East Hall	Silveus Insurance Group	6912	South Wing A
Osprey Drone Services	3025	West Wing	Simpco, Inc.	4481	North Wing
Outback Guidance	7963	South Wing B	Sioux Steel Company	8244	South Wing C
Overland Carts	4558	North Wing	Sioux Steel Company	8558	South Wing C

SJ Driveshaft Inc.	1410	West Hall
Sloan Express	8943	South Wing C
SMA, Inc	1317	West Hall
Smart Art Inc.	GC100	Upstairs - South Wing C
Smith Designs	GC700	Upstairs - South Wing C
Smith Wright & Company	GC801	Upstairs - South Wing C
Smitty Feed Troughs	2003	Pavilion
Smoky Mtn Cattle/Moly Mfg./Rice Lake Scale MJE Livestock Equipment	8120	South Wing C
SnirtStopper	4987	North Wing
SoCo Swings	WH2	West Hall
Soil Test Pro/FarmLogic	7256	South Wing B
Soilmax	6308	South Wing A
Soilmax	7863	South Wing B
South East VAL6, Inc.	4324	North Wing
South East VAL6, Inc.	4648	North Wing
Southern IL Scale and Construction, Inc.	1217	West Hall
Southern Indiana Supply	4764	North Wing
Southern Tool Supply	4752	North Wing
Southland Dairy Farmers	SDF	West Hall Breezeway
Spartan Mowers/Intimator Group	3410	West Wing
Sprayer Specialties Inc	8859	South Wing C
Spraytec Fertilizers	7753	South Wing B
SprayTest Controls	1204	West Hall
Springfield Plastics Inc	2760	Pavilion
SSF Erosion Control Blankets	2718	Pavilion
Stalk Knockers	8400	South Wing C
Stay Tuff Fence	7566	South Wing B
Steele Ag Renovations	2776	Pavilion
STEINBAUER Engineering & Performance	6704	South Wing A
Stine Seed Company	4224	North Wing
STOR-LOC	3001	West Wing
STOR-LOC	3000	West Wing
STOR-LOC	2700	Pavilion
Storm Insurance	2807	Pavilion
Sudenga Industries Inc	8420	South Wing C
Sugar Creek Ag, Inc.	7365	South Wing B
Sukup Manufacturing Co	8967	South Wing C
Summer Accents	1017	West Hall
Sunfire	1101	West Hall
Superior Grain Equipment	8815	South Wing C
Superior Life Light	4335	North Wing
Superior Tire & Rubber Corp.	7150	South Wing B
SurePoint Ag Systems	4780	North Wing
Sustain Seed + Soil	1518	West Hall
Swanson Ag Wraps	8600	South Wing C
Swedish Match Tobacco/Brewco	3523	West Wing
Sweet Manufacturing	8076	South Wing C
Swinger MFG	3095	West Wing
Systems By Lar	8254	South Wing C
T & S Sales	3626	West Wing
Tar River Manufacturing / Enorossi	3120	West Wing
Tar River Manufacturing / Enorossi	3100	West Wing
Tarter Farm and Ranch Equipment	8464	South Wing C
Teagle Machinery Ltd.	4858	North Wing
TeeJet Technologies	4450	North Wing
Tele Radio	7063	South Wing B
TerreMax	3004	West Wing
TEVA Corporation	7460	South Wing B
Texas Refinery Corp	4526	North Wing
The Country Coop	GC310	Upstairs - South Wing C
The Farmer's Pride (Farmland Publications Inc)	7259	South Wing B
The Golden Touch	GC810	Upstairs - South Wing C
The K B H Corporation	8504	South Wing C
The Lubrisynha Family of Products	8058	South Wing C
The National Hay Assn	6012	South Wing A
The Original Safety Siphon	3614	West Wing
The Original Safety Siphon	4371	North Wing
The Rustic Gypsy	GC805	Upstairs - South Wing C
The TireGrabber LTD.	2323	Pavilion
The Toro Company	8432	South Wing C
Therapeutic Innovations	GC504	South Wing C
Therapeutic Innovations	GC106	Upstairs - South Wing C
Thunder Creek Equipment	4472	North Wing
Thunderstruck Ag Equipment	6405	South Wing A
Tigerco/Reese Agri/Aitchison	3220	West Wing
Timac Agro USA - Rainbow Plant Food	6304	South Wing A
Timewell Drainage Products	7983	South Wing B
Timpte, Inc.	4951	North Wing
Titan/Goodyear Farm Tire	4084	North Wing
T-L Irrigation Company	5117	East Hall
Todd Schaeffer Equipment LLC	4562	North Wing
Total Ag Industries	4325	North Wing
Touch of Fudge LLC	GC304	Upstairs - South Wing C
ToughAg.com	4989	North Wing
TrackFarmer.com Inc.	7759	South Wing B
Trackman	7980	South Wing B
Traction Ag	4971	North Wing
Traeger Grills	3022	West Wing
Travis Burkhardt Foundation	6316	South Wing A
Trelleborg and Mitas Tires	5039	East Hall
Trending Now	GC908	Upstairs - South Wing C
Tri County Wood Preserving Inc	1604	West Hall
Trimble	4072	North Wing
Trinity Trailer MFG	3308	West Wing
Trioliet BV	3126	West Wing
Triple B Enterprises	3061	West Wing
Triple Crown Products Inc	7452	South Wing B
Tri-State Fertilizer Equipment	2419	Pavilion
Tri-States Grain Conditioning, Inc.	6214	South Wing A
Truax Co. Inc.	2429	Pavilion
Truth Elite BB Worldwide	4778	North Wing
Tubeline Mfg/Horst Welding/Agway Mfg.	3288	West Wing
Twin Lakes Canvas	7156	South Wing B
TYM Tractors	6259	South Wing A
Uncommon USA Flagpoles	2131	Pavilion
Uncommon USA Flagpoles	5101	East Hall
Unverferth Manufacturing Co Inc	7001	South Wing B
US Coast Gaurd	4829	North Wing
USC LLC	3530	West Wing
USDA	6120	South Wing A
V & M Company Inc	7751	South Wing B
Vail Products - X Series Attachments	8548	South Wing C
Valley Irrigation	6205	South Wing A
Valley Tile, Inc.	7354	South Wing B
Valmetal	4382	North Wing
Ventrac	1508	West Hall
Vermeer Mfg. Co.	4296	North Wing
Versatile	4096	North Wing
Veteran's Club INC.	2801	Pavilion

Vibratech TVD / Fluidampr	4425	North Wing
VINTAGE TRACTOR PULLING ASSN.	4433	North Wing
Vulcan Equipment	1103	West Hall
Wabash Woodstoves - Heatmor	4985	North Wing
Wagner Farms	3422	West Wing
Wagster Crop Insurance, LLC	5226	East Hall
Walinga Inc	3320	West Wing
Walkabout Mother Bin	4986	North Wing
Walker Mowers	4424	North Wing
Walters Buildings	6609	South Wing A
Warner Plastics and Liners, Inc.	2730	Pavilion
Waters Agricultural Laboratories Inc	4588	North Wing
Wearparts Tillage Tools	2203	Pavilion
Weaverline LLC	4877	North Wing
Wehrli Custom Fabrication	2732	Pavilion
Wellnext	GC1006	Upstairs - South Wing C
Wellnext	GC201	Upstairs - South Wing C
Wenzinger Farms LLC	1420	West Hall
Westendorf Manufacturing	6459	South Wing A
Department of Agriculture"	6216	South Wing A
Western Trailers	8614	South Wing C
What's Below LLC	5220	East Hall
Wiggle Wow	GC407	Upstairs - South Wing C
WILGER INC	6320	South Wing A
Wilkins Manufacturing Inc	3420	West Wing
Willsie Equipment Sales Inc	4328	North Wing
Wilson Livestock Trailers/Trailstar Dump Trailers: By Rodoc	3140	West Wing
Windy Hill Farm Toys	GC1002	Upstairs - South Wing C
Wingfield Manufacturing LLC	2235	Pavilion
Woods Equipment	8226	South Wing C
Workman Tobacco Seed	7356	South Wing B
Worksaver Inc	8843	South Wing C
World Wide	GC706	Upstairs - South Wing C
Worthington Tractor Parts, inc.	8264	South Wing C
Wright Fence Mower	1327	West Hall
Wright Implement Company	6627	South Wing A
WW Rodeo & Livestock System	4931	North Wing
Yetter Mfg Co	5001	East Hall
Zimmerman Manufacturing	7258	South Wing B



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 MICHAEL WILSON 270-622-0545

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 126+/- ACRES, SELLING IN 9 TRACTS, BUILDING LOTS, ROW CROP  
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**BIDDING STARTS: MON - MARCH 10TH @ 10:00 AM**  
**BIDDING ENDS: THURS - MARCH 20TH @ 5:30 PM**  
 8.07+/- ACRES, SELLING IN 2 TRACTS  
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## NATIONAL AG NEWS

# Evers proposes \$80M in additional farm, producer funding

**By Jon Styf**  
The Center Square

(The Center Square)  
– Wisconsin

Gov. Tony Evers said he intends to propose spending \$80 million on farms, farm families, processors and producers in his upcoming biennial budget proposal, scheduled to be announced Feb. 18.

The proposed spending includes \$15 million for the Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements program, created in 2009 to help farm owners and communities keep farmland for

agricultural use.

The proposal also includes \$1.5 million to launch a Dairy Agriculture Resilience Investment Now Grant for on-farm projects that improve resilience and efficiency of farm operations including new IT infrastructure, milking equipment or milk processing equipment.

“Wisconsin’s agricultural industries are not only vital to our state’s economic success, they are part of our DNA as Wisconsinites and our culture and heritage,” Evers said. “We’re going to keep

working to support this vital industry and the farm families who make it all possible.”

The plan would spend \$30 million on a Food Security Initiative that assists food banks with acquiring food from local farmers and producers.

A proposed \$10 million would be spent on a Soil and Water Resource Management program to fund county soil and water conservation staff and landowner conservation projects related to soil and water.

Evers is proposing to increase spending

on county conservation staff by \$12.7 million to \$30.5 million. The staffers work to reduce pollution and flooding, support producer-led watershed groups, help farmers develop nutrient management plans and administer the Farmland Preservation program to assist farmers in keeping their farms.

“Gov. Evers has been a leader in supporting the producers, processors, and rural communities in our state,” said Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Secretary

Romanski. “Today’s announcement demonstrates Gov. Evers’ continued investment in agriculture in Wisconsin and the future of the industry for years to come. Whether focused on dairy, conservation, farmer mental health, or supporting the connection between farm gate and dinner plate, Gov. Evers’ budget will continue to strategically invest and support Wisconsin’s place as an agricultural leader.”

The proposal also includes \$1.6 million for a Meat Processor Grant Program and \$1.2 million for a

Dairy Processor Grant Program along with \$1.6 million to continue funding for the Cover Crop Insurance Rebate Program and \$1.2 million to increase funding for the Commercial Nitrogen Optimization Program.

A proposed \$1 million would create a Transition to Grass program that will support farmers who are implementing livestock grass-based managed grazing systems and farmers and agribusinesses in the grass-fed livestock business to reduce runoff and protect waters.

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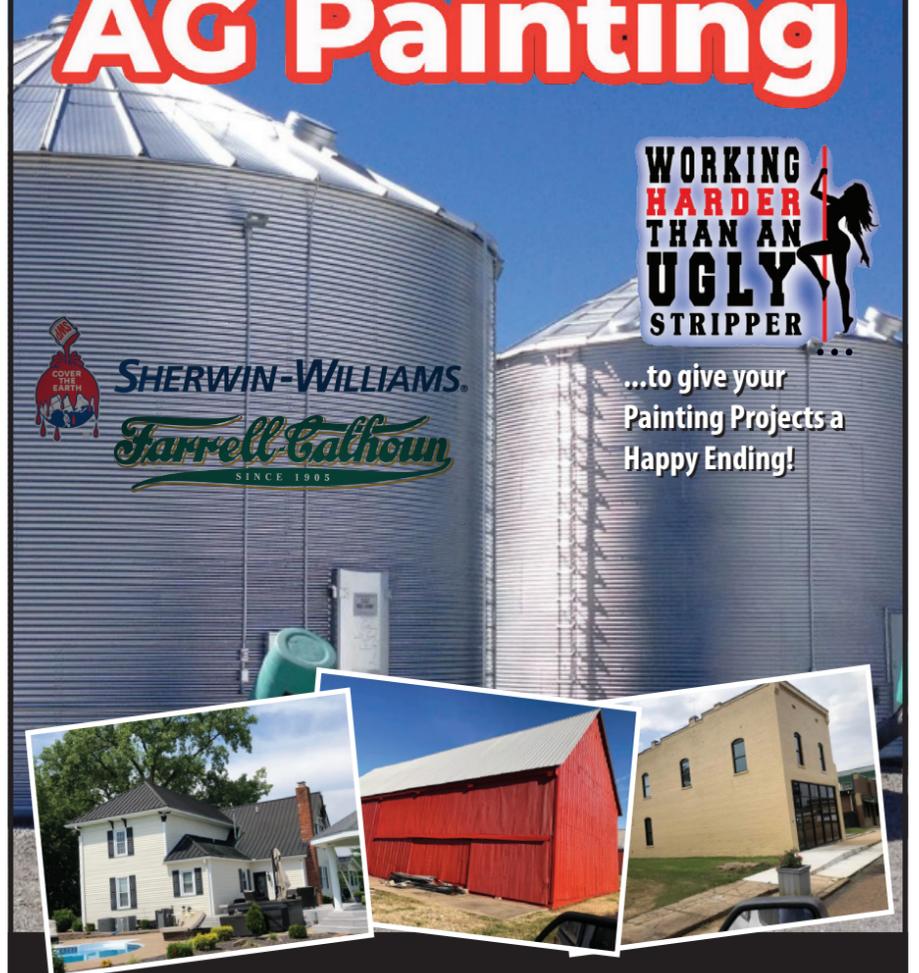
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# NATIONAL AG NEWS

## USDA applauds Mexico on resolving USDA dispute of GE corn

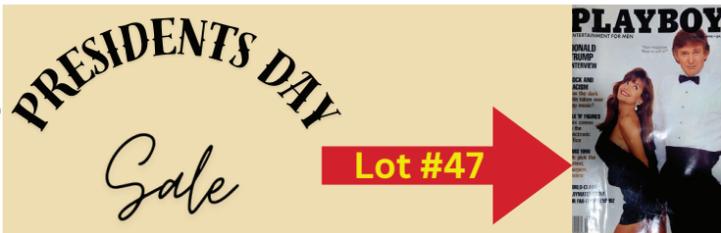
Washington, D.C.— The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) released the following statement commending Mexico's action to declare ineffective measures concerning genetically engineered (GE) corn that the United

States successfully challenged in the USMCA dispute. Today's action safeguards approximately \$5.6 billion in U.S. corn exports to Mexico. USDA, in coordination with USTR, will continue to monitor Mexico's

compliance with its USMCA commitments. "Mexico's action declaring ineffective these GE corn measures is a major victory for U.S. farmers and a testament to President Trump's decisive leadership on trade. Prompted by

President Trump's leadership and a USMCA panel ruling, Mexico's action in response to the United States' successful challenge in the USMCA litigation protects billions of dollars in U.S. exports," said Kailee Buller, Chief of Staff of

the U.S. Department of Agriculture. "The Trump Administration will continue to stand up for U.S. farmers and producers, including tackling countries' unjustified barriers to products of agricultural biotechnology."



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# Let's get ready to garden

By Teresa Pearson  
Farmers' Quarterly  
Writer

Ready to garden? but it is February and it has been snowing.

True you can't plant outside just yet, but it is time to do the preparing and planning for your garden.

Late fall and very



early spring is the perfect time to plan out what you will plant, get your seeds out and prepare the soil. Or if you don't have a garden, get those pots and planters ready. You can plant a garden even if you don't have space by putting pots and other containers on your porch or in the driveway.

In our area, the last frost date is April 12. So we plan ahead so that we can start some seeds indoors like cabbage, broccoli and herbs. You can always buy starts when the stores put them out, but get them early. A few weeks later we start more seeds inside that will be planted in the garden a little later like Tomatoes and peppers. The seed packet will tell you how long after

the frost date to plant. Or you can get a chart that tells you exactly when to plant like Clyde's Garden Planner or Farmer's Almanac.

First thing to do is get your soil ready. If you have an in ground garden you can test your soil to see what it needs or just put some compost out there. You can make your own compost or buy it. You can also add things such as sprinkling a little epsom salt and/or gypsum on your garden. Our favorite way to go is just lots of compost on the garden and in the pots.

Next thing to do is plan what you will plant. Go through your seeds and pick out and organize what you want to plant this year. We organize our seeds by

when to plant each one. You can plant in containers if you don't have a garden space. At least try a salad garden with lettuce, radishes, cucumber and a tomato plant. These can all be done in containers. You will love it and expand from there. If you don't already have seeds, plan what you want and get them bought early.

Make sure you have your tools, gloves and supplies ready before time to use them. However, do not go overboard. You don't have to have every tool and expensive gloves. You can garden cheap and get the same results with way less money. If you have never gardened before don't get more than you can handle growing. Make sure you can take care of what you get.

There is a ton of more information on line and in books to get you going. Or better yet, ask grandpa.

There! You are ready for the snow to melt so you can get your hands dirty and grow some wonderful nutritious food.



## Ag Update

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

## New Fruit and Vegetable Disease Videos

Plant Pathologist from Lexington, Dr. Nicole Gauthier, one of my go to resources for fruit and vegetable problems, has released 3 new videos highlighting diseases affecting various fruit and vegetable crops.

My favorite is "Blight Diseases of Tomato." The video is 29 minutes long and highlights the 5 different

blight diseases that can damage tomatoes in our area. The video talks about recognizing the diseases and the cultural and management practices that can help control these diseases.

Another video is "Southern Blight." This video is 18 minutes long and details one of the most damaging diseases with a very wide host range. It can affect vegetables, fruit, ornamentals, and native plants.

This presentation covers identification and management of the disease.

The last new video is "Neopestalotiopsis Disease in Strawberry." This video is 33 minutes long.

Neopestalotiopsis (Neopest for short) is a new disease of strawberry first reported in Kentucky in 2024.

This overview of Neopest disease will help growers understand how the fungus infects, spreads, and overwinters in Kentucky. Fungicide schedules are included.

This link will take you to Dr. Gauthier's YouTube channel and you can see these videos as well as the many other videos she has produced about plant diseases in Kentucky.

Programs of the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of race, age, sex, color, religion, disability or national origin. For additional information, contact the Ballard County Extension Office, 110 Broadway, La Center, 665-9118.

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## Spring Gardening Checklist

1. Prune non-spring blooming shrubs and trees.
2. Prune ornamental grasses and remaining perennial foliage.
3. Make the beds.
4. Weed, feed, and mulch.
5. Stir compost bin or build one.
6. Apply pest control.
7. Complete or start landscaping projects.
8. Plan new plantings and beds.
9. Clean out the shed and feed the birds.
10. Frost no more!



**NATIONAL AG NEWS**

# Tumultuous year challenged agriculture in North Carolina

**By David Beasley**  
The Center Square contributor

(The Center Square) – As he enters his 21st year as North Carolina agriculture commissioner, Steve Troxler on Thursday remembered the tumultuous year just past.

There was a devastating hurricane, flooding, forest fires, an avian flu outbreak and continuing staffing shortages at the state Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services.

If somehow he could have predicted all those events, would he still have run for a sixth term? “There’s a job to be

done,” Troxler said with affirmation.

When Hurricane Helene hit the state in late September, it was a combination of disasters, Troxler said. The storm brought not only high winds but massive rain and flooding. “Grocery stores washing away,” Troxler said. “Flooded food stores. Flooded gas stations. Those are all under the Department of Agriculture. We had to go in and make sure no adulterated products were sold.”

Roads – private and public – were washed out.

The Department of Agriculture even opened a relief center for those who had lost their homes,

housing 350 people and their pets.

“We touch people’s lives all day every day,” the commissioner said. “That’s what we are there for.”

Helene was a “sneaky” disaster, Troxler said.

“Before when he had Hurricane Florence and Matthew, you could see 36 inches of water on the ground,” and river systems that overflowed, the commissioner said. Helene was too much a combination of drought, too much rain, another drought and then another bout of heavy rain, Troxler said.

Even before Helene, 2024 was not

shaping up to be good year for farmers, he added.

“We were going to have to have a record yield for crops” to make a profit, said Troxler. “And of course, that didn’t happen.”

The hurricane inflicted more than \$1 billion in crop losses in the state, And it didn’t stop there. Even crops that were not destroyed were difficult to harvest.

Private roads that farmers used to harvest their Christmas trees washed out.

“Any kind of private transportation has been very, very difficult,” said Troxler.



North Carolina Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler.

Compounding the problem was that roads that would be used by the U.S. Forest Service to fight fires were also destroyed.

The state is on “pins and needles” worried that forest

fires could erupt this spring, he added.

“The water would be the first disaster, then the fires would come in almost right behind it,” said Troxler. “That sounds almost biblical.”

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# Kentucky Senate passes income tax cut as bill heads to Beshear

**By Steve Bittenbender**  
The Center Square contributor

(The Center Square) – A bill that would lower Kentucky's personal income tax rate to 3.5% starting next year sailed through the state Senate.

House Bill 1 passed by a 34-3 vote and will now head to Gov. Andy Beshear's desk. While Beshear has not always agreed with the Republican-led General Assembly's plan to gradually reduce the income tax with the goal of eliminating it, the Democrat has expressed support for this year's legislation.

GOP lawmakers were able to pursue a half-percent reduction in the income tax thanks to a law they passed three years ago over Beshear's veto. That law permits the legislature to pass rate cuts as long as two

requirements are met: Kentucky's budget reserves equal at least 10% of the annual General Fund revenues, and the General Fund revenues exceed the amount of the state budget allocations and 1% reduction in the income tax rate.

"Kentucky's economy is stronger than ever, thanks to a solid, conservative fiscal approach—the same strategy that recently earned the state credit rating upgrades from Moody's, Standard & Poor's, and Fitch," said Senate President Robert Stivers, R-Manchester. "Stronger bond ratings, growing reserves, and ongoing income tax reductions are all direct results of strategic policymaking and the conservative principles championed by Kentucky's

supermajority." This year's bill marks the third time the General Assembly has been able to seek a tax cut. According to Republican leadership, the first two allowed Kentucky taxpayers to retain about \$1.8 billion through December 2024. The latest round is expected to save taxpayers another \$718 million starting next year.

Four of the seven Democrats in the Senate supported the bill. Minority Floor Leader Gerald Neal along with Sens. Cassie Chambers Armstrong and Karen Berg, all of Louisville, voted against the measure.

Armstrong cited economic concerns as one of her reasons for voting no.

"We don't know what tariffs, if any, might be coming," she said. "We don't know what federal funds, if



TCS-Kentucky State Sen. Christian McDaniel, R-Ryland Heights, Kentucky State Sen. Christian McDaniel, R-Ryland Heights, presents House Bill 1, an act on taxation, on the Senate floor.

Kentucky Legislative Research Commission

any, might be going away. We don't know what impact, if any, that's going to have on us here in this state."

Critics of the Republican strategy, including the Kentucky Center for Economic Policy, argue that continuing to reduce the income tax will hurt public education and other essential programs. The center, which calls for solutions that remedy inequities

based on race, income, gender and geography, fears Kentucky is following the same path as Kansas did more than a decade ago. Leaders in that state were forced to repeal the cuts five years later due to funding shortfalls.

Senate Appropriations and Revenue Committee Chair Chris McDaniel, R-Ryland Heights, said Kentucky leaders

have learned from mistakes made in Kansas and West Virginia, which is why lawmakers included the stipulations tied to budget reserves and revenues.

"This system was designed to guarantee responsible, measured progress, and it has worked exactly as intended," he said. "Time and time again, naysayers have predicted financial disaster, but the facts tell a different story— income taxes are lower, essential services remain funded, and our rainy-day fund is at its strongest level ever."

During the second part of the legislature's 30-day session, lawmakers are scheduled to meet in Frankfort four days a week through March 14 and then return to close the session on March 27 and 28.

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# Kevil Grain thanks customers for their loyalty

**By Teresa Ann Pearson**  
Farmers' Quarterly Writer

KEVIL, KY. - Kevil Grain Company is located on Hwy 60 between Kevil and La Center, Ky.

Phil Abell and wife (Malissia) and his father Bill Abell and wife (Nan), purchased Kevil Grain in 1987. The original location was in downtown Kevil with a storage capacity of 60,000 bu. At that time, Kevil Grain had 2 additional employees, with 2 semis. Several years later, an additional 60,000-bushel bin was put up with another leg. In 1997, they

purchased a farm on Highway 60 and built what is now 2.2 million bushels of storage facility, along with 10 trucks on the road hauling off the corn, soybeans and wheat. Millions of bushels roll across the scales each year, staying within our community. Ever expanding and working hard to meet the needs of customers, who feel more like family, is the main goal for Phil and Malissia. Something that stands out to growers is Malissia's ability to market the grain for her customers. She offers her knowledge, and information, to their customers, to

make selling decisions. Phil has always specialized in the logistics of the company. Keeping trucks on the road, managing the grain that gets hauled out and where to put the grain that comes in. This goes to show that it takes them both as a team to make it all work. That is the key factor for Kevil Grains' success, it is a family affair. They also have an average of 14 employees. Kevil Grain has 11 tractor-trailers that will move the grain to river terminals throughout the year.

In August 2024, Kevil Grain was awarded WAVE's



Kevil Grain Photo by Teresa Ann Pearson

2024 Ag Business of the Year. "We want to thank our customers for their continued loyalty and business." says, Phil Abell.

If you have ever

crossed paths with Phil or Malissia, you know that they are salt of the earth people, and willing to help anyone, in any way that they can.

Located at 6696 Paducah Rd, Kevil, KY 42053 Phone: (270) 665-9124 You can also check them out on Facebook.

## Directions to the Farm Machinery Show

### From I-65 Northbound

Exit at the Fair/Expo Center (Exit 131B) and follow the signs to Gate 1, the main entrance.

### From I-65 Southbound

Take the Exit 132 to Crittenden Drive and merge to the far left. Continue along Crittenden Drive to Gate 2, which will be on the left. Gate 4 is

undergoing renovations and is closed. Gate 3 is a service-only gate.

### From I-264 Westbound

Exit at the Fair/Expo Center (Exit 11) and follow the signs to Gate 1. Or proceed further to Crittenden Drive to enter Gate 2. Exit 12 is Preston Highway (Highway 61). Take a right off the exit and follow Preston to Gate 6, which will be on the left between Sleep Inn and Thornton's Gas Station.

### From I-264 Eastbound

Exit at the Fair/Expo Center (Exit 11) to Crittenden Drive. Proceed to Gate 2 which will be on the right. Or continue past the Crittenden Drive exit to I-65 and Fair/Expo Center (Exit 12) and follow the signs to Gate 1.

	<p><b>1960 John Deere 730</b> Diesel, Electric Start, Firestone Rubber, Loaded with Options, "WOW!" <b>\$19,500</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">WATERLOO, WI</p> <h1 style="text-align: center;">WILKE'S</h1> <p style="text-align: center;">CLASSIC TRACTORS</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><a href="http://wilkesantiquetractors.com">wilkesantiquetractors.com</a> <b>920.350.5533</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Always Paying Top Dollar for High Quality Collector Tractors</i></p>		<p><b>1976 John Deere 4630</b> Factory Open Station, NEW Firestones, Complete Recent Restoration, "OVER THE TOP!" <b>\$67,500</b></p>
	<p><b>1955 John Deere 60</b> ONLY 1124 Actual Hours, ALL ORIGINAL, Runs &amp; Drives Amazing, Super Tight, "MUST SEE!" <b>\$23,000</b></p>			<p><b>1982 John Deere 4040</b> Factory Open Station, Full Mechanical Restoration, Late Model "82, "COOL HISTORY!" <b>\$43,500</b></p>
	<p><b>1943 Minneapolis Moline NTX Jeep</b> All Original, Runs &amp; Drives, Very Rare, The ORIGINAL Jeep, "AWESOME!" <b>\$50,000</b></p>			
	<p><b>1967 John Deere Lanz 310</b> 1812 Actual Hours, Sickle Mower, Diesel, Runs &amp; Drives Amazing, "STELLAR!" <b>\$9,900</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Photo Not Available</b></p>		<p><b>1957 International 350</b> Diesel, Wheatland, 1 of only 146 Ever Made, Runs Excellent, Nice, "HARD TO FIND!" <b>\$9,250</b></p>
	<p><b>1955 Allis Chalmers WD-45</b> Diesel, Runs &amp; Drive Amazing, Over the top restoration, "EXCELLENT!" <b>\$11,500</b></p>			<p><b>1968 John Deere 4020</b> Original Meade Borthor Conversion, Cat Engine, Runs Great, Very Cool, "SNAPPY!" <b>\$29,500</b></p>
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	<p><b>Champion Spark Plug Flange Sign</b> NOS, Excellent Colors, 12" x 18", Double Sided Metal, "SUPERB!" <b>\$1,650</b></p>			<p><b>Sheppard Diesel w/ Logo Sign</b> Single Sided Metal, 36" x 44", Great Graphics, "GREAT COLOR!" <b>\$4,000</b></p>

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# New program will award Kentucky school districts for using Kentucky food products

*Incentive levels are \$10,000, \$8,000, and \$6,000*

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Kentucky schools using locally grown produce and proteins will soon be eligible for monetary awards through a new program from the Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA).

The Kentucky Farm to School Stars Recognition Program will annually recognize three school districts that have demonstrated a commitment to increase purchases directly from Kentucky farmers.

“Increasing purchases of Kentucky foods directly impacts Kentucky farm families,” Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell said. “In addition, the local purchases positively impact schools by growing the

availability of nutritious and fresh food to our school-aged children. It really is a win for everyone.”

The program will recognize districts purchasing the highest percentage of locally grown products. Impacts will be measured by monitoring the districts’ purchases of locally produced proteins and produce for an entire school year.

Eligible districts must participate in the National School Lunch Program. Only Kentucky grown or raised products used during breakfast and lunch during the regular school year are eligible, excluding milk.

Applications completed by school districts will be



Kentuckians pay each year when renewing their farm license plate. The donations are divided equally among Kentucky 4-H, Kentucky FFA, and KDA. Last year, donations reached a record high of \$931,201.80.

“Each year, KDA makes a promise to reinvest its share of the funds into our agriculture community,” Commissioner Shell said. “This year we are keeping that promise by investing into our youngest generation – our children.”

More information about the Stars Recognition Program and the application process will be available on KDA’s website soon. Application deadline is July 31, 2025.

reviewed by a panel of KDA staff to select the top three districts. Winners for the 2024-2025 school year will be announced during October, which is National

Farm to School Month. Incentive levels will be \$10,000, \$8,000, and \$6,000 for first, second, and third place. The awards will be spent on local food

purchases for the 2025-26 school year. KDA will use Ag Tag funds to award the winning school districts. Ag Tag funds come from the voluntary donations

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<p>Jenkins Skeleton Grapple/Rock bucket, cylinder covers, 3/8" tines</p> <p>84" ..... \$3,300 74" ..... \$3,200 68" ..... \$3,100</p>	<p>Jenkins Heavy Duty Dirt Buckets, 1/2" bolt on edge</p> <p>68" ..... \$1,650 74" ..... \$1,700 84" ..... \$1,800</p>	<p>Jenkins Super Duty Tree Puller, pull, cut, dig &amp; carry with one machine, 1" steel jaws</p> <p>..... \$3,600</p>
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# Cattle and Bison Imports from Mexico Resume Under New Protocol

*Protocols ensure safe movement of animals while mitigating the threat of New World Screwworm*

WASHINGTON, D.C., — The United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is announcing the resumption of cattle and bison imports from Mexico. Imports are scheduled to resume within the next several days.

To protect U.S. livestock and other animals, APHIS halted shipments of Mexican cattle and bison in November 2024 after a positive detection of New World screwworm (NWS) in southern

Mexico. After extensive discussions between representatives from the countries, APHIS and Mexico agreed to and implemented a comprehensive pre-clearance inspection and treatment protocol to ensure safe movement and mitigate the threat of NWS.

*APHIS' top priority is to protect*

American livestock from foreign pests. As part of the protocol signed between the countries, Mexico

identified and prepared pre-export inspection pens in San Jeronimo, Chihuahua, and Agua Prieta, Sonora, which APHIS has now visited, inspected, and approved. Cattle and bison will be inspected and treated for screwworm by trained and authorized veterinarians prior to entering the pre-export inspection pens, where they will again undergo inspection by Mexican officials before proceeding to final APHIS inspection then

crossing at the Santa Teresa and Douglas Ports of Entry, respectively. Cattle and bison approved for importation will also be dipped in a solution to ensure they are otherwise insect- and tick-free. The United States and Mexico are working closely to approve additional pre-export inspection pens and reopen trade through other ports of entry.

To support our efforts to keep NWS out of the United States, APHIS will continue working with partners in

Mexico and Central America to eradicate NWS from the affected areas and to reestablish the biological barrier in Panama, which we have worked to maintain since 2006.

In the last two years, screwworm has spread north of the barrier throughout Panama and into Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Belize and now Mexico. This increase is due to multiple factors including new areas of farming in

previous barrier regions for fly control and increased cattle movements into the region. APHIS is releasing sterile flies through aerial and ground release at strategic locations, focusing on Southern Mexico and other areas throughout Central America. A complete list of regions APHIS recognizes as affected by screwworm as well as more detailed information on trade restrictions can be found on the USDA APHIS Animal Health Status of Regions website.

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# Particle science innovations focus on improving grain facility safety

By Steve Koppes

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Frequent explosions plagued the U.S. grain industry until the Occupational Safety and Health Administration introduced new grain-handling standards in 1988. The number of explosions soon dropped.

Still, grain handling and processing facilities in the U.S. have experienced a 10-year average of 8.4 incidents annually, said Kingsly Ambrose, professor of agricultural and biological engineering. During the last decade these incidents have led to dozens of injuries and fatalities, millions of dollars in damage, and operational downtime.

Ambrose specializes in the agricultural



Vidya Nagaraju and Kingsly Ambrose measure the size and shape distribution of particles on a Malvern Morphologi G3-ID particle shape analyzer at the Agricultural Particulates Lab at FLEX in West Lafayette, Ind. on Friday, Jan. 3, 2025.

applications of particle science. His current work delves into grain dust explosion prevention, improved fertilizers

and grain damage modeling. Funding for these projects comes from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, CNH

Industrial and Bayer. “Particle science is helping to develop new controlled- and slow-release fertilizers that reduce

the use of chemical coatings,” Ambrose said. “Through better characterization and by structural modifications, we are

developing innovative solutions that optimize nutrient delivery in fertilizers, prevent dust explosions, minimize grain damage during harvesting and handling, and improve seed germination.”

Kingsly Ambrose in the Agricultural Particulates Lab at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind. on Friday, Jan. 3, 2025.

Kingsly Ambrose in the Agricultural Particulates Lab at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind. on Friday, Jan. 3, 2025.

In recent years, Ambrose and his associates have patented several processes, including one that measures the amount of light passing through a dust cloud to quantify airborne dust in a grain facility. No previous method enabled grain operators to quickly, easily and continuously monitor dust accumulation in their facilities.

Ambrose and his colleagues disclosed their discoveries to the Purdue Office of Technology and Commercialization, which applied for patents to protect the innovations.

He also has patented an algorithm that uses artificial intelligence to automatically calibrate for the type and amount of dust being measured.

“Depending on the grains, the amount of dust will vary. Corn generates more dust than wheat, for example,” he said. “Properties will also differ, so you want separate calibration for each type of dust,” he said.

The economic stakes of damaged grains are significant. From 5% to 10% of all grains become damaged during

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## STEVE & CONNIE FARMER RETIREMENT AUCTION

— WITH A FEW SELECT ADDITIONS —

We are delighted to announce this upcoming auction and honored to represent Connie and Steve Farmer as they transition into retirement. The Farmers have been cherished members of the Simpson County community for many years and raised their family in Franklin, with Connie retiring from the Simpson County school system and Steve serving as a Deacon at Calvary Baptist Church. Both have passionately supported local programs, including Simpson County's 4-H, FFA, and FSHS Band. Their dedication and contributions to the community have been truly remarkable, and we are proud to assist them in this next chapter.

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**GRAIN TRUCKS & WATER TRUCK:** 2010 International WorkStar 7500 w/20' Scott Dump Body, 1997 Volvo WG64T, 22' Knapheide Aluminum Grain Dump, 1978 Ford 7000 w/ 12' Body, Cat 3208 Diesel, 1990 Ford F800 w/18' Omaha Box, 1972 GMC S/A 6000 Water Truck.

**BALERS, RAKE, GRAIN ELEVATORS & SPREADER:** John Deere 569 Round Baler, John Deere 328 Square Bale, New Holland Discbine Mower-Conditioner, Model H7230, John Deere R15 Flex Wing Rotary Cutter, John Deere 709-7' Bushhog, Farm King Easy Rake SS-16, 2019 Kuhn SR 112 G-11 Speedrake, 2020 Enorossi G4N-570 PTH Tedder, Enorossi 3-Basket Tedder, Farm King 1070 Grain Auger, 2-Westfield 8" X 60' Grain Auger, 2- Skeleton Conveyors, 40' & 25' Lengths, Shaver HD-10 Post Driver, all Hydraulic (New, Never Used). New Holland 327T Manure Spreader, JD 1517 Batwing Rotary Mower.

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**MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS:** Massey Ferguson Sickle Mower, Foremost Model 30 Cattle Headgate (like new), Hay Rings, Panels, Gates, Barbed Wire, 2000# Cardinal Scales, 300 Gallon Stainless Steel Fuel Tank, 3-pt Hitch, 1,500 Gallon Water

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see SAFETY,  
page D11

**SAFETY,**  
from page D10

combine harvesting or handling and storage.

“Damages could be both internal and external. We lose quality. We lose storability. The value goes down,” he said.

Ambrose blends model development with laboratory testing to identify where most grain damage occurs. His particle science approach reveals what forces act on the grains as they run through a threshing cylinder or a combine harvester. Companies can then apply his findings to improve their systems.

“The integration of particle modeling and design allows us to support modern agricultural practices with greater precision,” he notes.

Ambrose and his collaborators have also improved the efficiency of urea, a form of nitrogen fertilizer, with a patented process of layer-wise agglomeration of urea granulates—this refers to a process where urea granules are combined or compacted in layers to form larger clusters. This process improves the granules’ size, shape or handling properties.

“If you apply urea and there is rain, even if there’s high moisture, it dissolves immediately, so the plants may not have enough fertilizer during their growth period,” Ambrose said.

“Our approach here is to make the urea dissolve slowly, without using any additional chemicals to make them release nutrients slowly,” he said. Instead, Ambrose modified the structural components of the urea and mixed it with environmentally friendly ingredients.

“We are also using other methods to control granule density and structural characteristics so that the fertilizer doesn’t dissolve quickly,” he said. “If we can reduce the leaching of urea from the soil, we can help

prevent both land and water pollution.”

Kingsly Ambrose and Vidya Nagaraju use a PerkinElmer Thermogravimetric Analyzer to measure the change in mass of a particulate sample as a function of temperature

Kingsly Ambrose and Vidya Nagaraju use a PerkinElmer Thermogravimetric Analyzer to measure the change in mass of a particulate sample as a function of temperature at the Agricultural Particulates Lab at FLEX in West Lafayette, Ind. on Friday, Jan. 3, 2025.

He hopes that a recent grant from USDA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative will lead to further improvement in developing innovative granular urea fertilizers. This work is in collaboration with Carl Wassgren, professor of mechanical engineering, and Kurt Ristroph, assistant professor of agricultural and biological engineering, both at Purdue; and Chad Penn, soil scientist at the USDA Agricultural Research Service.

Ambrose began conducting particle research as a graduate student at Purdue, completing his PhD in agricultural and biological engineering in 2010. He lauded the influence of the interdisciplinary faculty and facilities of Purdue’s Center for Particulate Products and Processes (CP3) on his academic career path. Now he manages the center’s characterization lab, which spans faculty members from the colleges of agriculture, engineering and pharmacy.

“Leveraging the power of particle technology will drive agriculture toward a more sustainable and safer future, helping meet global food demands while minimizing the environmental footprint,” he said. Lowering the cost of production will also be a benefit.

Ambrose was recognized as a 2024 Fellow of the Indian Society of Agricultural Engineering in November. The society cited him “in recognition of his significant contribution in the field of agricultural engineering both in India and abroad.”

**His research group draws undergraduates, graduate students and postdoctoral researchers from agricultural, chemical and mechanical engineering, along with food science. Past projects have involved pharmaceutical and beverage engineering, including the powders used to make energy drinks.**

In previous work, for example, he developed a model to overcome the challenges presented by mixing more than a dozen different types of powders to yield a uniform taste for a popular energy drink.

Particle science and technology is a still a developing field in the U.S. “Not many people work in this area,” Ambrose said. Purdue offers several courses in agricultural particulates, taught by Ambrose and other faculty members in the colleges of



agriculture and engineering. Alumni go on to work for pharmaceutical, food and agricultural companies.

“Industry wants this kind of expertise,” he said.

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Purdue University’s College of Agriculture is one of the world’s leading colleges of agricultural, food, life and natural resource sciences. The college is committed to preparing students to make a difference in whatever careers they pursue; stretching the frontiers of science to discover solutions to some of our most pressing global, regional and local

challenges; and, through Purdue Extension and other engagement programs, educating the people of Indiana, the nation and the world to improve their lives and livelihoods. To learn more about Purdue Agriculture, visit this site.

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Purdue University is a public research university leading with excellence at scale. Ranked among top 10 public universities in the United States, Purdue discovers, disseminates and deploys knowledge with a quality and at a scale second to none. More than

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# Brooke Rollins approved by Senate Ag Committee for U.S. Secretary of Agriculture



Brooke Rollins, President Trump's nominee for U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, appears before the Senate Ag Committee during her Senate Confirmation Hearing on Thursday, Jan. 23.

Photo courtesy of the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

**Edit by**  
**Teresa Pearson**  
Farmers' Quarterly Writer

Brooke Rollins is an American attorney and policy advisor currently announced as the nominee for United States secretary of agriculture in President Donald Trump's second administration.

Rollins previously served as deputy general counsel, ethics advisor, and policy director to Texas governor Rick Perry. She is an advocate of criminal justice reform. Rollins was the

president and CEO of the Texas Public Policy Foundation, an Austin-based conservative think tank, from 2003 through 2018. During her tenure at TPPF, the think tank grew from having a staff of three to a staff of 100.

Rollins oversaw the White House Office of American Innovation under President Donald Trump from 2018 until 2020. She also served as the acting director of the United States Domestic Policy Council under President Trump. Since the end of the Trump administration, Rollins served as the president and CEO of the America First Policy Institute.

On November 23, 2024, President-elect Trump announced his intent to nominate Rollins to be secretary of agriculture.

If confirmed, she will be the second woman to hold the position, after Ann Veneman.

*Early life and education:*

Brooke Leslie Rollins was born on April 10, 1972. Her mother Helen Kerwin was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 2024. She was raised on a farm in Glen Rose, Texas and attended Texas A&M University, where she graduated cum laude with a B.S. in agricultural development in 1994. While at Texas A&M, Rollins was the first woman to be elected student body president. She also served as the speaker pro tempore of the Student Senate, the chair of the Texas A&M Judicial Court, as a Fish Camp counselor, and was Cotton Bowl Classic Queen. In 2007, Rollins became the first female speaker at the College Station Aggie Muster, which honors deceased Texas A&M former students.

Rollins earned a Juris Doctor from the University of Texas School of Law, graduating with honors.

*Career:*

After graduating from law school, Rollins worked for several years at Hughes & Luce, LLP in Dallas and clerked under U.S. Federal District Court judge Barbara M. Lynn. Rollins previously served as deputy general counsel, ethics advisor, and policy director to Texas governor Rick Perry.

Rollins was the president and CEO of the Texas Public Policy Foundation, an Austin-based conservative think tank, from 2003 through 2018. During her tenure at TPPF, the think tank grew from having a staff of three to a staff of 100.

In 2011, Texas Monthly named Rollins one of the 25 most powerful Texans.

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# Cattlemen's Congress and National Western Stock Show Carload Contest

By Hutson School of Agriculture



Etta Hudson, Addeline Conger, Faith P'Pool, Ellie Lawson, Laken White, and Jason P'Pool (Coach) traveled to 8 different states (KY, MO, OK, TX, NM, CO, KS, IL) and nearly 3000 miles while making stops at numerous Livestock Farms/Ranches including 2 commercial feedlot operations to prepare for the Feedlot Cattle Classes that they would judge in Denver at the National Western Carload Contest. The Team is off to a great start and is looking forward to a terrific spring!



National Western Stock Show Carload Contest — 13th High Team in Placings



Laken White, 5th High Individual in Sheep/Goats



12th High Team in Sheep/Goats



11th High Individual Overall



14th High Team Overall



### Macaroni and Cheese With Panko Breadcrumbs

#### Ingredients:

1 pound elbow macaroni, (4 cups)  
1/2 cup panko bread crumbs, unseasoned  
1/4 teaspoon ground cayenne red pepper, optional  
5 tablespoons unsalted butter, divided  
1/4 cup all purpose flour  
1 teaspoon ground mustard  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/4 teaspoon black pepper  
4 cups lactose-free dairy milk  
1/2 teaspoon hot pepper sauce, optional  
2 cups shredded cheddar cheese, mild  
2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese

#### Directions:

Cook macaroni according to package directions until tender, about 8 minutes. Drain.

Meanwhile, mix breadcrumbs and cayenne pepper, if using, in a small bowl. Melt 1 tablespoon butter in a 10-inch cast iron skillet over medium-low heat. Add breadcrumbs. Toss until evenly coated and lightly browned, about 1 minute. Remove breadcrumbs to a plate; reserve. A person's hand whisking macaroni with hot water in a pot on an electrical stove.

Heat the broiler. Melt the remaining 4 tablespoons butter in a medium saucepan. Whisk in flour, mustard, salt and black pepper. Cook and whisk over low heat until the roux thickens and bubbles for about 3 minutes. A measuring cup filled with milk being poured into the cooked pasta in a pot.

Gradually add milk, whisking vigorously until smooth. Cook, stirring constantly, over medium heat until sauce thickens and bubbles for 1 minute. Whisk in pepper sauce, if using. Remove from heat. Two hands adding shredded cheddar cheese to the cooked pasta with milk.

Mix Cheddar and mozzarella cheeses in a medium bowl; reserve 1 cup for topping. Add remaining cheese mixture to sauce. Stir with a spatula until the cheese melts and sauce is smooth. Two hands topping macaroni with shredded cheese in a skillet.

Combine macaroni and cheese sauce in the cast iron skillet or a broiler-proof baking dish; mix well. Sprinkle with reserved cheese and toasted breadcrumbs. Broil 6 to 8 inches from the heat source until breadcrumbs are browned, about 1 minute. Watch carefully so that breadcrumbs do not burn.



### Creamy Cucumber Salad

#### Ingredients:

2 cucumber, thinly sliced  
1/2 cup sour cream  
3 tablespoons rice vinegar, or red wine vinegar  
1.5 tablespoons sugar  
1 teaspoon garlic powder  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
1/4 teaspoon pepper  
1/4 cup fresh dill, chopped

#### Directions:

Thinly slice cucumbers. Thinly sliced cucumbers in a bowl, with a knife resting on the same bowl.

Mix together sour cream, vinegar, sugar, garlic powder, salt, pepper and dill until creamy and smooth. A dressing on top of thinly sliced cucumbers, not fully mixed.

Toss cucumbers in the dressing.

### Baked Pears with Vanilla Yogurt and Granola

#### Ingredients:

2 medium bartlett pear, or d'anjou pears  
1/2 cup apple juice  
1 cup water  
1 tablespoon honey  
3 (6-ounce) containers low-fat vanilla yogurt  
1/2 cup granola  
Mint, leaves (optional)

#### Directions:

Preheat oven to 375 degrees Fahrenheit. Cut pears in half lengthwise and remove core with a melon baller or small spoon. Place pears, cut side down, in a shallow baking dish just large enough to hold them.

Pour apple juice and water over pears; drizzle with honey. Cover pan loosely with foil and bake about 35 minutes or until tender. While pears are baking, place granola in a shallow baking pan or pie plate and toast in



oven 10 minutes; set aside.

When pears are done, pour baking liquid into a small saucepan and reduce over medium heat until about 1/4 cup of syrup remains; set aside to cool.

Line a colander with paper towels and place over bowl to catch drips. Pour yogurt into colander and allow to drain about 30 minutes. Divide yogurt among 4 shallow bowls. Place warm pear half, cut side up, over yogurt. Top with toasted granola and drizzle with syrup. Garnish with a mint leaf, if desired.



### Bow Tie Pasta Salad

#### Ingredients:

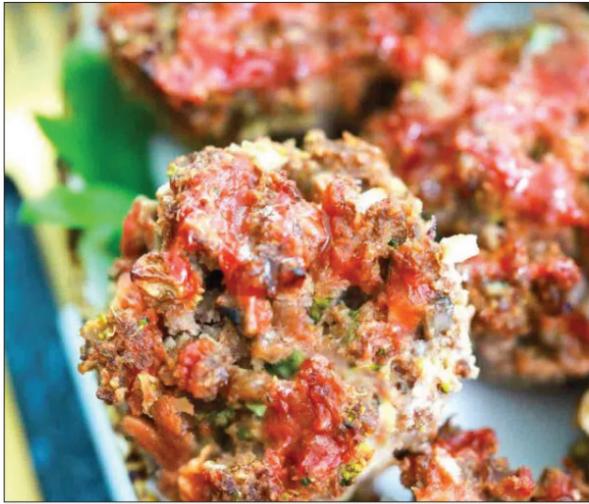
1 box bow tie pasta (farfalle), (8 ounces) or other shaped pasta  
1/3 cup light mayonnaise  
2 tablespoons cider vinegar  
2 tablespoons sweet pickle relish  
1/4 teaspoon ground white pepper, or to taste  
1/8 teaspoon hot pepper sauce, or to taste  
4 ounces reduced-sodium ham, or smoked turkey, diced  
8 ounces reduced-fat cheddar cheese  
1/2 medium red pepper, finely chopped

2 scallions (green onion), green and white parts, minced  
1/8 teaspoon paprika

#### Directions:

Cook pasta according to package directions, drain. Immediately rinse with cold water, drain well. Meanwhile, whisk together the mayonnaise, vinegar, relish, white pepper and pepper sauce in a small bowl; set aside in the refrigerator to chill.

Combine the cooled pasta, ham, cheese, red pepper and scallions in a large bowl. Stir in the mayonnaise mixture just before serving. Garnish with paprika.



### Meatloaf Muffins

**Ingredients:**

- 1 pound ground beef or ground turkey
- 1/3 cup seasoned breadcrumbs
- 1/3 cup parmesan cheese shredded
- 1 egg
- 8 ounces can tomato sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt or to taste
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper or to taste
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce

**Directions:**

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F.  
 In a medium bowl, combine all the ingredients, making sure to only use about 1/4 of the tomato sauce. Reserve the rest.  
 Press the meat into the muffin tins.  
 Top with a bit of the remaining tomato sauce.  
 Cook for 20-30 minutes, until cooked through.  
 Serve warm.

### Easy Beef Gravy

**Ingredients:**

- 2 cups beef broth or beef drippings
- 2 teaspoons garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/4 cup water
- 2 1/2 tablespoons corn starch
- salt and pepper to taste

**Directions:**

In a medium saucepan over medium heat, bring beef broth to a boil.  
 Immediately stir in garlic powder, onion powder, and Worcestershire sauce.  
 In a small bowl whisk together water and corn starch until fully dissolved. Add the slurry to the boiling beef broth and reduce heat to medium-low. Stir until thickened.  
 Season with salt and pepper to taste.  
 Remove from heat and serve.



### BBQ Sloppy Joes

**Ingredients:**

- 1 1/2 lb ground beef
- 1/2 sweet onion diced
- 1/2 red bell pepper diced
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black Pepper
- 1 cup Barbecue sauce
- 1/4 cup ketchup
- 1/2 cup water
- 6 hamburger buns
- 1 cup cheddar cheese shredded

**Directions:**

Place a medium skillet over medium-high heat and brown the beef, for about 5 minutes. Drain the grease when done.  
 Add the diced onion, bell pepper, and season with salt and pepper. Cook for 5 minutes.  
 Add in the barbecue sauce and ketchup.



Cook on low uncovered for 10 minutes, taste and adjust for salt and pepper.  
 Serve on the hamburger buns topped with the shredded cheddar cheese.



### Quick Beef Stir-Fry

**Ingredients:**

- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 pound beef sirloin, cut into 2-inch strips
- 1 1/2 cups fresh broccoli florets
- 1 red bell pepper, cut into matchsticks
- 2 carrots, thinly sliced
- 1 green onion, chopped
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons sesame seeds, toasted

**Directions:**

Gather all ingredients.  
 Heat vegetable oil in a large wok or skillet over medium-high heat; add beef and stir-fry until browned, 3 to 4 minutes.  
 Move beef to the side of the wok and add broccoli, bell pepper, carrots, green onion, and garlic to the center of the wok; stir-fry vegetables for 2 minutes.  
 Stir beef into vegetables and season with soy sauce and sesame seeds. Continue to cook and stir until vegetables are tender, about 2 more minutes.  
 Serve hot and enjoy!

### Simple Beef Short Ribs

**Ingredients:**

- 1 pound beef short ribs
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 onion, sliced
- 1 clove garlic
- 1 (12 fluid ounce) can or bottle stout beer
- 1 cup beef stock

**Directions:**

Gather all ingredients.  
 Season ribs with salt and pepper. Dredge in flour until coated; shake off excess.  
 Heat olive oil and butter in a Dutch oven or large skillet over medium-high heat. Cook ribs until browned, about 5 minutes per side. Remove ribs and set aside.  
 Add onion and garlic to the pot; cook and stir until onion is tender, about 5 minutes. Return ribs to the pot; pour in beer while scraping the browned bits of food off the bottom of the pot. Pour in beef stock.  
 Cover and simmer over low heat until ribs are very tender, about 2 hours.  
 Serve and enjoy!





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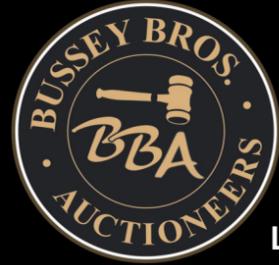
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# Help secure agriculture's future by donating to the 'Ag Tag' fund

*Op-ed from Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell*

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Kentucky Ag Tag is on the road to \$1 million and we need your help getting there.

Last year, Kentucky farmers donated a record-breaking \$931,201.81 to the Ag Tag Program. It was the largest amount ever donated in a single year and topped the 2023 total by nearly \$200,000. But this year, I'm hoping we can reach that \$1 million mark creating even more positive outcomes for Kentucky's agricultural youth.

Ag Tag money is generated through the \$10 voluntary donation

Kentuckians make each year when they buy or renew their farm vehicle license plates, or "ag tags." The money is then split equally between the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Kentucky FFA, and Kentucky 4-H to support Kentucky's agriculture youth and other organizations and programs benefiting our farm families.

The \$10 donation may seem like a small amount. But, by multiplying it by the thousands of Kentuckians that give and then putting those funds in the hands of the department that focuses on the state's agriculture community and the two leading agriculture youth

development organizations, we are providing a strong backbone for Kentucky's agricultural future.

As a former FFA kid I know the differences the organization can make in a young person's life. Providing leadership experiences, life lessons, lasting friendships, and giving me the skills I needed for my future, FFA set me off on a path that led me to the Commissioner of Agriculture office.

In the same way FFA helped shape my life, 4-H creates experiences that make lasting impacts. 4-H and FFA are two youth programs that are at the forefront of the future of Kentucky



agriculture, providing direction in life for many of our influential young people.

You can help create those lasting impacts by donating to Kentucky 4-H and Kentucky FFA when you buy or renew your farm license plate, or "Ag Tags" this year. When renewing your plate,

you have the opportunity to make a \$10 donation. It's a small amount that can make a huge difference and one of the easiest ways to give back to the community and the future of agriculture.

The KDA uses its share of the Ag Tag funds for various programs such as the Ag Athlete of the Year awards, the

Kentucky Leopold Conservation Award, Kentucky Women in Agriculture, and the University of Kentucky Grain and Forage Center of Excellence. KDA will be using the funds for a new program this year that monetarily incentivizes Kentucky school district using

*see AG TAG, page E9*

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# Farmers' health, safety focus for KDA at this year's National Farm Machinery Show

*Raising Hope, partners offering safety demonstrations, health screenings*

FRANKFORT, Ky. — The Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) will be represented by the Raising Hope Safety, Health, and Rescue Program focusing on all facets of the program's focus of farmers appreciation at the National Farm Machinery Show. Each year, the National Farm Machinery Show showcases cutting-edge agricultural products, equipment, and services.

In addition to farm safety exhibits and rescue exhibits, Raising Hope is partnering with several agencies to offer several health and safety services and information to help farmers and agricultural producers remain at their physical best, Commissioner of Agriculture Jonathan Shell announced.

The show is set for Feb. 12-15 at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville.

"Farming has its risks, but healthy farmers, both physically and mentally, equates to healthier farms," Commissioner Shell said. "For years, KDA has offered world-class safety and rescue demonstrations. Recently, with our Raising Hope program, we also began focusing on the health aspect of our agriculture producers. Adding health screenings during the National Farm Machinery Show allows us to fulfill our mission and promise of advocating for

healthy farming communities."

This year's show will feature KDA employees demonstrating safety around farm equipment including tractors, Power Take Off (PTO), Rollover Protective Structure (ROPS), and more. Grain bin rescue methods and accident prevention will also be demonstrated, along with information about "Share the Road" safety and signage.

Available health screenings will include those for blood sugar, blood pressure, and hearing. There will also be resources available for mental well-being and general health education. The health screenings will be available 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. each day.

Partnerships with the Raising Hope Safety, Health, and Rescue Program will offer farm safety demonstrations, health screenings, and ag related rescue demonstrations at this year's event. Partnerships include Southeast Center for Agricultural Health and Injury Prevention, Dixie Firefighters Association, the Kentucky Governor's Challenge for Suicide Prevention, University of Louisville Health, Appalachian Regional Healthcare, KY Hears/Heuser Hearing, and the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food, and Environment.

The health screenings and health education are components of the Raising Hope Safety, Health, and Rescue Program, which was created to promote the physical and mental health and safety of Kentucky's farmers and farm families. Raising Hope began as a coalition between the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and other agriculture, education, and healthcare institutions dedicated to improving the mental and physical health of farmers. In July 2024, Raising Hope was moved fully under the KDA umbrella and joined with the Department's Farm Safety program. The campaign is supported by appropriations from the Kentucky General Assembly and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The National Farm Machinery Show, now in its 59th year, is the country's largest indoor farm show with more than 900 vendors. It brings thousands out to see the most complete selection of cutting-edge agricultural products, equipment, and services available in the farming industry. Professionals from around the world gain knowledge and hands-on access to various technological advancements needed for the upcoming farming season during the four-day show.

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# OCTC Veterinary Tech program getting ready for Fall 2025

OWENSBORO, KY — Owensboro Community & Technical College's (OCTC) Veterinary Technology program is hosting pre-admission conferences for students interested in turning their passion for animals into a career. Before applying for admission to the OCTC Veterinary Technology Program, please attend at least one Pre-Admission Conference.

If you plan to apply for the Fall 2025 semester, you should attend one of the following Pre-Admission Conferences: February 26, 2024 at 4-5 p.m. (NEW virtual date; Teams link is at the bottom of this release) or March 25, 2025 at 5-6 p.m. (in-person at the OCTC Downtown Campus, RM 23/Vet Tech Teaching Hospital, 1501 Frederica St, Owensboro, KY 42301).

Upon completion of the two-year program graduates are prepared to sit for the Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE). Areas of study include office and



hospital procedures, client relations and communications, anatomy, physiology, parasitology, clinical techniques, pharmacology, anesthesiology, surgical and medical nursing, radiology, and clinical pathology training. The

Vet Tech program provides valuable real-world clinical and lab experiences to develop the skills needed to become a valued professional in the field. These open houses are designed to give prospective students an overview of the program and

demonstrations to simulate the lab experience.

**VET 100 - Intro to Veterinary Technology, Fall 2025 OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS:** Vet 100 is now open to all students-no pre-requisites and offered online! This is a great opportunity to get acquainted with the world of Veterinary Technology. Learn the basics and see if a career in Veterinary Technology is right for you! You do NOT have to be in the Veterinary Technology program to enroll in this course. This course introduces students to veterinary technology, hospital operations, professional standards and ethics, common domestic breeds, and the basic concepts of animal behavior. It also emphasizes preventative health programs and nutrition

of common domestic species. Registration for the Fall 2025 semester opens on Mar. 1, 2025.

To learn more about OCTC's Veterinary Technology Program, please visit <https://owensboro.kctcs.edu/education-training/program-finder/veterinary-technology.aspx>.

OCTC's vet tech program is a selective admissions program and has a limited number of seats available each year. To begin the program in the Fall 2025 semester, the application window is currently OPEN and closes May 1, 2025. For more information, please attend a pre-admission conference or contact OCTC Veterinary Technology Program Coordinator, Dr. Laura Boarman at 270-686-4585 or by emailing Laura.Boarman@kctcs.edu. Owensboro Community &

Technical College is one of the sixteen community and technical colleges that make up the Kentucky Community & Technical College System. OCTC serves the KY counties of Daviess, Hancock, Ohio and McLean. OCTC has three campuses in Daviess County and a Center and Annex in Hancock County. OCTC strives to serve the communities in the service area by providing associate degree education for transfer, state of the art technical education for students focusing on entering the workforce, customized business and industry solutions through the Workforce Solutions division, and adult education and business and industry testing through the SkillTrain unit.

The Kentucky Community and Technical College System is the Commonwealth's largest postsecondary institution with 16 colleges and more than 70 campuses. We also are Kentucky's largest provider of workforce training and online education. Through partnerships with business and industry, we align our programs to meet the needs of local employers. We help students fulfill their dreams of creating a better life through programs that lead directly to jobs or help them transfer to one of our four-year partners.

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## ← AGRICULTURE & BUSINESS OUTLOOK →

# Change is inevitable, growth is optional



**By Alan Hoskins**  
President and  
National Director of  
Sales  
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John Maxwell is one of my favorite authors and speakers. One of his quotes, which resonates with me personally, is “Change is inevitable, growth is optional.” He also penned “If you want to change and grow, then you must know yourself and accept who you are before you can start building.” I believe most will agree we live in a world where change occurs at breakneck speed. What specific steps are you taking to ensure your growth, both business and personal, is happening in a similar timeframe?

All producers are familiar with how “change” has occurred over the past two years. Interest rates have risen and both commodity and equipment prices have

fallen. When we say we would like to see “change”, these are certainly not the trends we desire. I would, however, argue both types of growth referenced above are more likely to occur during down economic cycles than when we are experiencing “good times.”

The second of Mr. Maxwell’s quotes shown above speaks of the importance to “know yourself.” Simply stated, don’t try to be something you are presently not. No one is an expert in everything. It certainly does not mean that you can’t learn but be honest regarding your present skillset limitations. As an example, if marketing has not been your strongpoint over the past two years, please find a resource more knowledgeable in this area to assist in improving your operation’s profitability versus trying to do it solely on your own. True growth is often evidenced by realizing you need assistance in a specific area. When you make the choices of those you will ask to help advance your business, select individuals

that will indeed teach you methods of improvement versus making decisions for you.

Another element of growth I ask be considered is being very targeted in your goals. When challenging times occur, it is easy to become overwhelmed as we may identify many areas needing improvement. Please consider focusing on no more than three specific improvements you would like to enact. If a greater number of potential changes is chosen, it can become difficult to maintain attention to the tasks at hand and achieve long-lasting progress.

There is no shortage of challenges in the current agricultural environment. Our industry has faced difficult times before and farmers have found ways to improve and persevere. This time will be no different. While these periods are never pleasant as we face them daily, they do help galvanize us in ways to take advantage of future opportunities.

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# Make plans to attend the 48th Annual Kentucky Turf and Landscape Management Short Course

*The course is one of the premier turf and landscape management events in Kentucky, featuring a host of national speakers.*

By Jordan Strickler

Elizabethtown, Ky.— Turfgrass professionals and enthusiasts are invited to the 48th Annual Kentucky Turf and Landscape Management Short Course at the Hardin County Extension Office in Elizabethtown on Feb. 18-20. The event—presented in partnership with the University of Kentucky's Turfgrass Program and the Kentucky Horticulture Council—is the perfect opportunity to connect with seasoned professionals, discover the latest turfgrass and landscape research and deepen expertise in all facets of turf management.

“The turfgrass industry is full of camaraderie from practitioners to academics,” said Kenneth Clayton, turfgrass extension associate in the UK Department of Plant and Soil Sciences. “I am thankful for colleagues who will be speaking, as well as those traveling in from out of state to share their knowledge. The turfgrass industry is a multibillion-dollar industry and UK has

alumni working in it from Florida to Alaska.”

The week kicks off on Tuesday, Feb. 18, with a pre-conference pesticide certification training for those preparing to take the Kentucky Pesticide Applicator's Exam, followed by two days of educational sessions running from 8:50 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET.

Attendees will hear from UK Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment faculty, as well as experts from the University of Tennessee, Kansas State University, Virginia Tech, Eastern Kentucky University and industry representatives. Presentations will address all aspects of turf management for lawns, golf courses, sports fields and more.

Six Continuing Education Units (CEUs) have been approved for each of the two main conference days, with category-specific points available in categories 3, 10, and 11, depending on the session track. In addition, CEUs have been requested from the Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio and



From home lawns to professional golf courses, turfgrass and landscape is a multibillion-dollar industry. Photo by Elliott Hess/UK Athletics.

Portrait of Jordan Strickler

Tennessee Departments of Agriculture, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and the Professional Grounds Management Society.

Those who plan to take the pesticide exam on Tuesday must also register separately with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. Exam study materials can be accessed online through the UK Department of

Entomology or obtained in printed form by contacting a local county extension office. Registration is currently available online for both sponsors and attendees, with discounted tickets priced at \$65 per day until Friday, Feb. 14. On-site registration will be \$85 per day.

Participants are encouraged to register in advance to secure a reduced rate and ensure space. For more information, including the full

conference program and the registration link, visit <https://ukturf.ca.uky.edu/events/2025-ky-turf-landscape-management-short-course>.

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# University of Kentucky's Housing Engagement and Research Initiative launches statewide resource hub online

*The new website provides one place for Kentucky resources and data to help address the housing supply, access statewide.*

**By Christopher Carney**

LEXINGTON, Ky.—

Advancing on the regional and statewide challenge addressing housing needs in the Commonwealth, the University of Kentucky Office of Land-Grant Engagement has launched the Housing Engagement and Research Initiative (HERI) website.

In partnership with Community and Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky (CEDIK) at the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment and Land-grant Engagement, the new website is a centralized hub for Kentucky housing resources and data—providing state and national housing toolkits, policy recommendations, housing usability studies and more.

HERI's goal is to be a one-stop-shop in providing valuable Kentucky housing resources, data and services that can be used to help meet some of the state's housing challenges.

A nationally regarded expert in housing issues and community development Alison Davis, CEDIK executive director and Center for Economic Analysis of Rural Health director at Martin-Gatton CAFE, leads HERI.

Since HERI was first announced during UK's Board of Trustees meeting as part of Project Accelerate—advancing and addressing significant issues in

the state by growing and building university partnerships with governments, communities and nonprofits—Davis has been working with experts across campus as well as local governments to research issues such as housing affordability, demographic trends and neighborhood development.

“Kentucky has a unique opportunity to capitalize on the future growth of housing needs, but the strategies must be research-informed, collaborative and regional,” Davis said. “Through establishing these partnerships and collaboration, they will help HERI in providing valuable resources and data to support local governments, developers and communities in creating strategies to impact their housing supply, access and affordability.”

Some of HERI's resources and services include:

- Housing in Kentucky publication series which examines housing issues in Kentucky. A publication titled 2025 Overview of Housing in Kentucky was recently released.

- County housing data profiles which provides additional data and interactive mapping points for all 120 counties in Kentucky.

- Housing demand study to help communities address and develop a plan regarding their housing needs

- Kentucky city and housing studies showcasing several housing studies that have been done in communities across



Several housing studies have been done in communities across Kentucky, which can now be accessed on the HERI website.

Photo by Daniel Kahl in Bourbon County

Kentucky.

- Kentucky housing resources which includes updated statewide data sources, toolkits and reports along with national housing resources.

“We encourage our Kentucky communities that might be interested in a housing study, creating a housing plan or better understanding how land use policies impact the provision of services to engage with HERI,” Davis said. “These are important tools in creating strategies to better address Kentucky's local housing needs and create more vibrant communities.”

To learn more about HERI visit <https://heri.uky.edu>.

###

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*The Power of Agricultural Education*

Agriculture is more than just planting crops or raising

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passion for farming and rural communities. Whether you’re interested in agribusiness, agronomy, animal science, or mechanics, your contributions will be vital in feeding the world and protecting natural resources.

professionals, explore career paths, and witness firsthand the cutting-edge innovations that will define the future of agriculture. Be sure to visit the educational seminars, speak with exhibitors, and take notes on how technology is shaping modern farming.

continue learning—because the future of agriculture depends on forward-thinking individuals like you.

A Call to Action  
As you walk the halls of the National Farm Machinery Show, take a moment to think about your role in the future of agriculture. Network with professionals, ask questions, and soak in as much knowledge as possible. Your journey in agriculture is just beginning, and the opportunities ahead are endless.

The world needs your innovation, your leadership, and your dedication. You are the future of agriculture—embrace it with confidence and passion!

*Opportunities Await at the Louisville Farm Show*

The National Farm Machinery Show in Louisville provides an incredible opportunity for FFA students to see the latest advancements in agricultural equipment, precision farming, and sustainable practices. Attending this event allows you to connect with industry

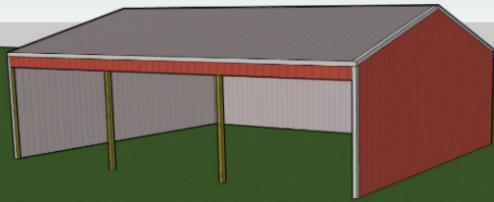
*Innovation Starts with You*

The agricultural landscape is rapidly changing with advancements in automation, precision farming, and climate-smart practices. As future farmers, researchers, and agribusiness leaders, your fresh ideas and enthusiasm will drive progress. Embrace technology, stay curious, and

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# IDOA launches "Illinois Grown" to boost ag producers

Springfield, IL – Illinois Grown, a new program from the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA), will make it easier to support local farmers and businesses. The Illinois Grown logo will soon appear on products across the state, signaling that items are either grown in Illinois or contain at least one ingredient sourced from the state.

The program is designed to connect consumers with products grown or produced in Illinois. The Illinois Grown

logo helps consumers identify local products, supporting the state's agricultural industry and economy.

"The Illinois Grown initiative is not just about food – it's about supporting local communities," said IDOA Director Jerry Costello II.

"Consumers who buy Illinois Grown products can feel good knowing their money is going directly to Illinois farmers and producers."

The program also encourages consumers to pledge to spend \$10

of their weekly grocery budget on Illinois Grown items, reinvesting millions into the local economy.

For Illinois farmers, food companies, and other agricultural businesses, the Illinois Grown logo provides a new opportunity to highlight their commitment to local sourcing.

### Benefits to producers include:

- **More Visibility:** With the Illinois Grown logo, producers get exposure through the state's marketing

campaigns and promotional efforts.

- **Targeted Reach:** The program helps businesses connect with consumers who prioritize local and sustainable sourcing.

- **No Extra Cost:** Producers can take advantage of the state's advertising initiatives without additional fees, boosting their return on investment.

Retailers can get involved in the Illinois Grown program by signing up to showcase Illinois Grown products in their stores. Participating

businesses will receive free in-store display materials to help promote the initiative.

This is a great opportunity for retailers to engage customers with locally sourced products and highlight their commitment to supporting Illinois farmers and producers.

Consumers can show their support by taking the Illinois Grown pledge, committing to spend at least \$10 a week on locally produced items. As a thank you, those who take the pledge will

receive a free reusable bag or sticker. The pledge can be completed online at <https://agr.illinois.gov/assistance/logoprograms/pledge.html>.

The Illinois Grown program is an easy way for consumers to make a difference in their communities. By simply choosing local products, they can contribute to a stronger, more sustainable economy.

For more information, visit [www.illinoisgrown.food](http://www.illinoisgrown.food).

### AG TAG, from page E1

Kentucky food products for school meals. We are extremely excited about this endeavor and see it as a fantastic way to bring more Kentucky agriculture products into healthy, nutritious school meals.

Half of the 4-H and FFA donations are returned to local councils and

chapters, meaning leaders in your community can use those funds to cover the cost of 4-H and FFA camp and other leadership programs for our youth.

County 4-H councils use Ag Tag dollars to provide 4-H camp scholarships and travel for life-changing educational experiences to enable local 4-H youth to grow as leaders and engaged

citizens. FFA chapters are free to use the money to meet the greatest needs in their community, such as FFA jackets for students in need or helping cover travel costs to leadership events.

That unselfish willingness to help build and prepare Kentucky's agriculture youth are predominant features of FFA and 4-H. They are two of

the leading youth organizations in Kentucky and the nation. While they work to prepare youth to take on the challenges agriculture faces, KDA works every day to promote Kentucky's farmers, inviting each resident in the Commonwealth to realize the importance agriculture plays in the present and in the future. That

future is Kentucky's agriculture youth. That's why this year's Ag Tag campaign theme is "Bluegrass Beginnings, Boundless Futures." Funding from your voluntary donations helps all three organizations fulfill our mission to sustain Kentucky agriculture for generations to come securing the future of Kentucky agriculture.

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

# February Equipment Auction

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Heritage Cattle Working Chute



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# PRECISION AGRICULTURE Using GPS, AI, and IoT for optimized farming

As global demand for food production rises, the agricultural industry is turning to cutting-edge technology to increase efficiency and sustainability. Precision agriculture, integrating GPS, artificial intelligence (AI), and the Internet of Things (IoT), is revolutionizing modern farming by optimizing resource use, reducing waste, and improving yields.

Precision agriculture employs GPS technology to enable real-time tracking and mapping of farm fields. Farmers can use GPS-guided tractors and drones to ensure precise planting, fertilization, and harvesting, reducing input costs and minimizing environmental impact. "By using GPS-driven equipment, farmers can eliminate overlapping applications and precisely manage every inch of their fields," said Dr. Jones, an agricultural technology specialist.

AI-powered analytics further enhance decision-making in precision agriculture. Machine learning algorithms analyze soil conditions, weather patterns, and crop health data, allowing farmers to make informed choices on irrigation, fertilization, and pest control. "AI systems can predict crop diseases before they become widespread, enabling proactive interventions and improving overall yields," said Dr. Jones, a researcher in agricultural AI solutions.

IoT devices, such as smart sensors and automated irrigation systems, provide real-time field monitoring and management. These sensors measure moisture levels, temperature, and soil nutrients, transmitting data to a centralized platform



accessible via mobile devices. "Farmers can receive instant alerts and make adjustments remotely, ensuring optimal growing conditions while conserving resources," a precision agriculture consultant.

The integration of these technologies is paving the way for more sustainable and profitable farming practices. As the industry embraces digital transformation, precision agriculture is expected to play a crucial role in meeting the world's food demands while reducing environmental impact.

The initiative has several key objectives: Enhancing productivity and efficiency: Leveraging technology to

maximize output while minimizing costs.

Improving environmental sustainability: Reducing chemical and water usage through precise application.

Supporting data-driven decision-making: Using AI and IoT for real-time farm management.

Encouraging widespread adoption: Promoting accessibility of precision agriculture tools to farmers of all scales.

With continued advancements in GPS, AI, and IoT, precision agriculture is set to redefine the future of farming, ensuring that agriculture remains both profitable and sustainable in an increasingly tech-driven world.



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# SUSTAINING THE FUTURE:

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**Profiting from Carbon Farming** – A farmer analyzing soil health with a dashboard displaying carbon credits, illustrating the financial benefits of eco-friendly practices.

Farming isn't just about growing crops—it's about preserving the land for future generations. Regenerative agriculture is leading the way, focusing on enhancing soil health and biodiversity through techniques like crop

rotation, composting, and integrating livestock. These methods restore depleted soils, increase resilience to climate change, and improve yields—a win for both farmers and the environment. As consumer demand for sustainably sourced food rises, regenerative farming

isn't just a best practice—it's a smart investment.

Another major shift is carbon farming, where eco-friendly practices aren't just good for the earth—they're also profitable. By

see **SUSTAINING**, page E12



**Regenerative Agriculture in Action** – A thriving farm with diverse crops, rich soil, and rotational grazing, showcasing sustainability and biodiversity.

### 2025 New Salem Lions Club Spring Consignment Sale

February 22, 2025 @ 9:00 a.m.

New Salem Lions Club Building  
4324 US 52 Rushville, IN 46173

**Auctioneer's Note:** The 59th Annual New Salem Lions Club Consignment Auction will have multiple rings running sale day with one ring having live simulcast bidding. The online bidding will take place at [harmeyerauction.hibid.com](http://harmeyerauction.hibid.com). The online ring will have the higher interest items like good running tractors, vehicles, implements, and anything else the sale committee deems appropriate. Bring a friend, or three or four and don't miss out on this auction guaranteed to be full of things to take home and put to work!

Visit [www.harmeyerauction.net](http://www.harmeyerauction.net) for complete details & updates on inventory often.

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Accepting Consignments February 8th thru February 19th, 2025 Monday thru Saturday: 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Sundays: 12-4:00 p.m.

\*No consignments accepted after February 19th\*  
**NOTE:** \*Absolutely No Household Goods \*No smalls \* Good tires on rims considered \*Items accepted at the discretion of the sale committee

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Lisa Hartwell 765-938-9595 or  
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765-561-1671 Consign early for free advertising  
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**TILLAGE:** chisel plows, Willbeck soil saver, Vicon cultivator, JD 512 ripper, '20 Unverferth zone builder,

**OTHER VEHICLES & EQUIP:** Ford Crown Vic, Dodge Charger(2), JD 1770 planter, Ferris zero turn mower, header cart, gravity wagons, 4-wheeler, Sitrex wheel rake, Cushman utility carts, Gehl forage wagon, JD silage blower, custom made bale truck accumulator and MORE

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**SUSTAINING,**  
*from page E11*

implementing conservation tillage, agroforestry, and cover cropping, farmers can sequester carbon in the soil and sell carbon credits to corporations looking to offset emissions. This emerging market offers new revenue streams, proving that sustainability and profitability can go hand in hand. Those who adapt early will reap the financial rewards of a greener future.

Water scarcity is a growing challenge, making water management critical to modern farming success. Smart

irrigation, rainwater harvesting, and drought-resistant crops are essential tools for addressing water shortages. Farmers who adopt these strategies reduce waste, lower costs, and ensure more reliable crop production, making their operations more resilient. At the same time, organic farming continues to gain traction, but with unique challenges—higher costs, strict regulations, and market competition. Still, the premium prices and strong consumer demand make it a lucrative option for those willing to invest.

Finally, cover

crops and no-till farming are transforming soil conservation by reducing erosion, improving water retention, and enhancing soil fertility. These practices boost long-term productivity while cutting input costs. As more farmers recognize the benefits, sustainability is no longer just an option—it's the foundation of modern agriculture. The future of farming isn't just about growing more; it's about growing smarter, protecting resources, and securing long-term success.



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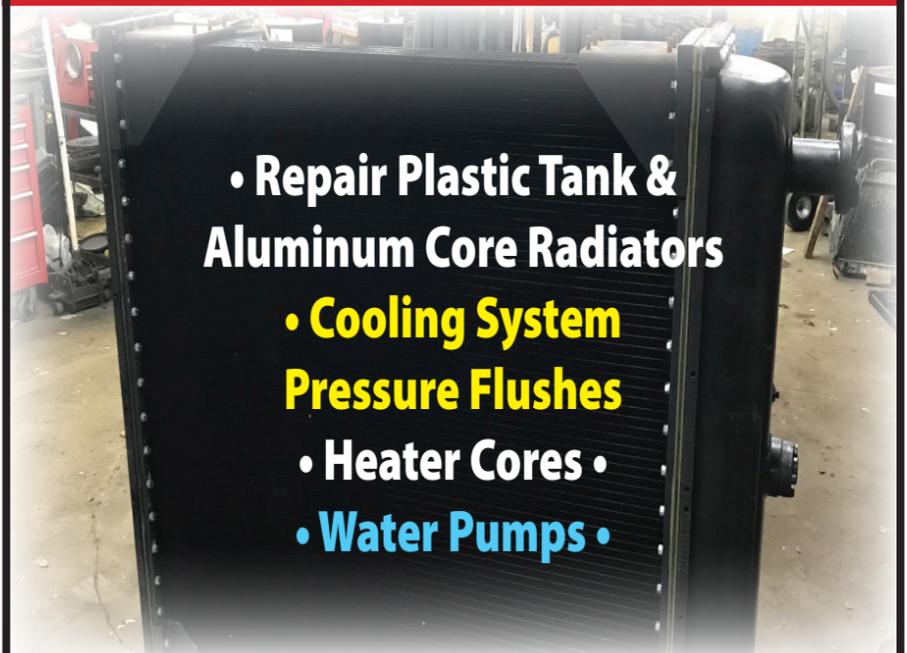
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# The benefits of using a professional auctioneer to sell your farm equipment and land

Selling farm equipment and land is a big decision, and getting the best return on your investment requires the right approach. While private sales and online listings may seem like viable options, working with a professional auctioneer ensures maximum exposure, competitive bidding, and a faster, more efficient sale. Whether you're retiring, upgrading equipment, or liquidating assets, a skilled auctioneer adds value by streamlining the process and maximizing your profits.

### Maximizing Market Exposure and Buyer Competition

A professional auctioneer brings experience, marketing expertise, and a built-in network of qualified buyers. Unlike traditional sales, where negotiations can drag on for weeks, an auction creates urgency and excitement,

encouraging buyers to act quickly. The auctioneer's ability to generate competitive bidding means sellers often receive higher-than-expected prices for their farm equipment and land. With advertising strategies that include online promotions, direct mail, and industry connections, your assets reach local, national, and even international buyers—ensuring the best possible return.

### A Transparent and Fast Sales Process

Time is money in farming, and auctions offer a fast, hassle-free solution to selling valuable assets. Instead of negotiating with multiple buyers over weeks or months, an auction provides a definitive sale date and structured process. Buyers arrive prepared, knowing they must place their best bids in a competitive environment. The result? A fair, market-driven price with no haggling or delays.

Auctioneers also handle all the paperwork, ensuring a smooth transaction from start to finish.

### Trust, Expertise, and Professionalism

Farm auctions are more than just sales—they're events led by professionals who understand agriculture and equipment values. A skilled auctioneer assesses your inventory, determines realistic price expectations, and tailors the auction format to maximize returns. Whether it's a live, online, or hybrid auction, their expertise ensures buyers are engaged, confident, and willing to bid competitively. Sellers also benefit from accurate appraisals, strategic lot organization, and expert guidance throughout the process.

### A Winning Strategy for Farmers

At the end of the day, hiring a professional auctioneer takes the stress out of selling while maximizing your profits. Whether you're selling a single piece of equipment or an entire farm operation, an auctioneer ensures your assets are sold efficiently, transparently, and for top dollar. With their market knowledge, industry connections, and ability to create a high-energy bidding atmosphere, auctioneers turn your farm sale into a winning event. When it's time to sell, don't leave money on the table—partner with a professional auctioneer and watch the bids roll in.



Farm Auction in Action – A crowd of bidders gathered around farm equipment, with an auctioneer leading the sale.



Successful Farm Equipment Sale – Buyers inspecting tractors and machinery, shaking hands with the auctioneer after a competitive auction.



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# Digitizing your farm equipment with Listeronaut

In today's fast-paced agricultural industry, keeping track of farm equipment, tools, and assets is more important than ever. That's where Listeronaut, a cutting-edge cataloging software app, comes in. This powerful digital solution allows farmers to organize, track, and manage their equipment with ease, ensuring greater efficiency, reduced downtime, and better financial planning. By digitizing farm equipment with Listeronaut, farmers can streamline their operations and make data-driven decisions that improve productivity and profitability.

**1. Real-Time Equipment Tracking & Smart Management**  
Using Listeronaut's digital cataloging

system, farmers can keep an accurate inventory of tractors, harvesters, and other machinery. Each piece of equipment can be tagged with detailed records, including serial numbers, purchase dates, maintenance schedules, and warranty information. With this information easily accessible from a smartphone or computer, farmers can eliminate guesswork, schedule timely maintenance, and prevent costly breakdowns.

**2. Digital Marketplaces & Auctions**  
When it's time to upgrade or sell farm equipment, Listeronaut helps farmers list assets seamlessly on digital marketplaces and auction platforms. By having detailed equipment histories,



condition reports, and usage records stored in the app, sellers can provide potential buyers with transparent and trustworthy information, leading to faster sales and better prices. Auction houses can also use Listeronaut's cataloging features to organize and market large equipment sales

more effectively.  
**3. Predictive Maintenance & Cost Tracking**  
Listernaut doesn't just store data—it helps farmers make smarter decisions. By tracking usage hours, fuel efficiency, and repair history, the software can predict when a machine will need maintenance before it breaks

down. This proactive approach reduces costly repairs and unexpected downtime, keeping farm operations running smoothly. Additionally, Listeronaut's cost tracking features help farmers analyze the total cost of ownership for each machine, making it easier to budget and plan for future investments.  
**4. Simplified Farm Inventory & Asset Management**  
Beyond equipment, Listeronaut allows farmers to catalog tools, irrigation systems, storage units, and other farm assets. With everything digitally recorded and organized, farmers can quickly locate tools, plan replacements, and track depreciation for tax and insurance purposes.

Whether managing a small family farm or a large commercial operation, Listeronaut ensures that every piece of equipment is accounted for and working at peak efficiency.  
The Future of Farming is Digital  
By integrating Listeronaut's cataloging software into daily farm operations, farmers can save time, reduce costs, and increase profitability. No more lost tools, forgotten maintenance, or guessing game equipment values—everything is digitized, organized, and accessible at a moment's notice. The future of farming is digital, and with Listeronaut, farmers can stay ahead of the curve while protecting their most valuable assets.

*Just in*

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**Upcoming Auction Schedule:**

**Hokeness Farms Inventory Reduction Sale**

*March 4, 2025 - Adrian, MN*

**Mt. Sterling, IL Spring Consignment Sale**

*March 20, 2025 - Mt. Sterling, IL*

**Alma Center, WI Spring Consignment Sale**

*March 31, 2025 - Alma Center, WI*

**TRI Brothers Spring Consignment Sale**

*April 8, 2025 - Torrington, WY*

**Mt. Pleasant, PA Consignment Sale**

*April 22, 2025 - Mt. Pleasant, PA*

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