

MARCH 2025

A Section

A Special Supplement to  
KPI Newspaper Group

# FARMERS' Quarterly

## ★ ★ ★ SPRING PLANTING & LIVESTOCK ★ ★ ★



### McBride Angus Farms offers Calf Buyback Program

By Teresa Pearson  
Farmers' Quarterly writer

The McBride Family Farms is a registered Angus cattle operation specializing in high quality powerful bulls and maternal females. The family also provides the best possible high quality Angus beef at their farm in South Pittsburg, Tennessee.

For over 20 years, the McBride family has been refining their herd of quality Angus cattle by selectively breeding them for industry-leading traits. Today, their almost 200 mama cows reside on the rolling hills of northern

Coffee County in Middle Tennessee where the family provides them with wholesome feed and the best possible care.

Each spring, cows and yearling bulls are offered at an on-farm production sale. In addition, other animals are marketed directly to other cattlemen through private treaty sales. Calves destined for consumption rather than breeding are grain finished for 60-90 days and then processed at McBride Meats Co. and offered for sale at the on-farm store and at the McBride Meats butcher shop in South Pittsburg.

The Calf Buyback Program: McBride Angus offers something the others can't do, because they also own the largest USDA slaughterhouse.

McBride Angus offers a guaranteed bid based on the top of the market from a previous report of your local sale barn within two weeks. With no price docking and same day pay, this is the best program you can find. With the buyback program you get the best price, without dealing with a sale barn.

Matthew McBride says, "If you trust us with the bull that is 50% of your herd,

then you shouldn't receive average prices."

Customer Casey Botts said, "Being a small producer, the McBride buyback program works well for my operation. I was skeptical at first, but Matthew has lived up to his word in every aspect. I have been pleased with the ease of transactions and Matthew's willingness to answer any questions I have had."

The McBride Angus Farms is family owned and operated and seeks to serve God by:

see **BUYBACK**,  
page A3

### WAVE River counties AG well represented at state YFA

By Teresa Pearson  
Farmers' Quarterly writer

WAVE River Counties AG Initiative member Collin Cooper and WAVE AG Secretary Madi Schmidt with the Young Farmer Association Chapter

attended the 67th annual State Young Farmer Association Convention at Lake Cumberland State Park, over the weekend.

see **YFA**,  
page A7

### Two events honoring Ballard County farmer Benny Cooper

By Teresa Pearson  
Farmers' Quarterly writer

Benny Cooper Farm in Ballard County will be kicking off Grain Bin Safety Awareness week in honor of Benny this year.

On March 24, there will be a Safety and Accident Prevention Day beginning with a 4:30pm ceremony at Abell Place Grain Bins, followed by a tractor and emergency vehicle procession to Bandana Baptist Family Life Center. They will have a chili cook off by area first responders and a health screening by Raising Hope Mobile Unit. At 6 pm will be Grain Bin safety and rescue training for first responders and farmers. Times are tentative.

Benny Cooper was a Ballard County farmer who



passed away in a grain bin accident early this year.

Also on March 22 at 6 pm, there will be a FFA Alumni Trivia Night to raise money for a Benny Cooper BMHS Scholarship Fund. \$20 per person, up to 6 people per team, door prizes, bring your own snacks. Doors open at 5:30pm.

If you are unable to attend, but would like to donate to the Scholarship Fund, Please Contact: Mark Williams (270) 832-0314 Or Ryan Buchanan (270) 748-2806.

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FROM AG COMMISSIONER JONATHAN SHELL

# Ag Education Week offers firsthand look at local farms

By Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture is launching a new initiative in March as part of Ag Education Week, offering agriculture tours that give young Kentuckians a firsthand look at local farms and agribusinesses. These experiences will connect students with the people and processes that keep our agriculture industry thriving, helping them understand the vital role agriculture plays in their daily lives and future careers.

The Real Ag Experience provides a chance for students to meet farmers, florists, veterinarians, landscapers, greenhouse managers, farm store owners, and ag finance and insurance professionals in their communities. It allows them to make the crucial connection between agricultural products that they rely on and the hard-working people who produce them.

The program provides hands-on learning opportunities for students to explore the various aspects of agriculture and farming in Kentucky. There are interactive

events, farm tours, and activities designed to teach students about the importance of agriculture in Kentucky's economy, the environment, and their daily lives.

The initiative is targeted at school youth, but it's open to anyone interested in learning more about the industry. The goal is to create a better understanding of where food comes from, how it's produced, and the range of career opportunities available in agriculture.

The program emphasizes the connection between agriculture and the state's rich cultural heritage, while also highlighting innovations in modern farming practices. It's a fun and educational way to engage the next generation in conversations about the future of farming and food production.

The Real Ag Experience initiative offers several benefits to students, especially those who may not have direct exposure to agriculture. They include:

- **Hands-on learning:** Students get to experience farming and agriculture firsthand, allowing them to learn in a more interactive and engaging way

diets and quality of life of our customers by providing them with nutritious beef protein.

McBride Angus Farms Headquarters is located at 2225 Gnat Hill Rd Manchester, TN 37355 Check out their website or Facebook page for more information. [mcbrideangus.com](http://mcbrideangus.com)

compared to traditional classroom settings. This type of experiential learning can deepen their understanding of complex concepts related to food production, sustainability, and environmental stewardship.

- **Career exploration:** The initiative exposes students to a wide variety of career paths in agriculture, from farming and animal care to agricultural technology, research, and agribusiness. This helps them think

about potential career interests that they might not have considered before.

- **Developing practical skills:** By participating in the program, students can gain practical, real-world skills such as teamwork, problem-solving, and an appreciation for hard work. These skills are valuable not only in agriculture but in any future career or personal development.

- **The journey from farm to table:** The program helps students understand where food comes

from and how it gets to the table. This can lead to healthier eating habits, a greater appreciation for the work behind food production, and a stronger sense of responsibility toward sustainable practices.

- **Connection to local communities:** The initiative fosters a sense of community pride as students learn about Kentucky's agricultural traditions and how local farming supports the state's economy. It helps them feel more connected to their heritage and the local



farming community. Overall, the Real Ag Experience gives students the tools to make informed decisions about food, sustainability, and their own future career paths, while fostering a deeper connection to agriculture.

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**BUYBACK, from page A1**

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# Kentucky Hemp Association denounces restrictive hemp beverage bill

(Frankfort, KY --) Kentucky lawmakers and media have been misled about hemp beverage regulations. While some have suggested that a deal has been reached between lawmakers and the hemp industry, no such agreement exists. In reality, since the passage of Rep Raymer's HB 544, hemp stakeholders have spent years developing safety and testing protocols—protocols now being disregarded in favor of rushed legislation that would hand control of the industry to Big Alcohol.

SB 202 was introduced late in the session without input from Kentucky's hemp industry, imposing an unnecessary moratorium on hemp beverages. The floor amendment to SB 202 — which was not discussed with the state's leading hemp trade organization

— ignores prior agreements and legislative processes, instead handing regulatory control to the Alcoholic Beverage Commission (ABC)

"The amendment to SB202 undermines the entrepreneurial spirit that drives innovation in the beverage market. It hands a fast-growing, popular, and profitable new product to the ABC and Big Alcohol. There are few consumer protections in this amendment, but it does serve to protect the special interests that view hemp beverages as a threat to their bottom line," said KYHA board member Katie Moyer, owner of Kentucky Hemp Works.

Kentucky's hemp beverage industry contributes \$330M to the state's economy and employs over 3,000 people. This amendment would cripple local

businesses while giving out-of-state competitors an unfair advantage in direct-to-consumer sales.

Kentucky hemp farmer Michael Adair, a board member for KYHA said "If this model is adopted, other states will likely follow suit, causing the sales of hemp products to shrink across the country. The more limited the distribution, the fewer outlets will exist to sell the products, which in turn impacts the livelihoods of Kentucky's hemp farmers."

The timeline of events shows a pattern of exclusion and rushed decision-making, ignoring the very stakeholders who helped build the industry:

Sept 26, 2024 – KYHA leaders testified against ABC control in Senator Adams' committee hearing.

Feb 18, 2025 – KYHA

met with Chairman Matt Koch to discuss hemp beverage regulation; concessions were made but ignored.

March 4, 2025 – Senator Adams introduced SB 202, placing a moratorium on hemp beverages until 2026.

March 7, 2025 – A surprise floor amendment (SFA2) was introduced, forcing hemp beverages under Big Alcohol control.

What This Legislation Does Wrong:

Removes existing oversight from CHFS (which has already regulated 146 compliant hemp beverages), replacing it with ABC control, despite ABC having zero funding allocated for hemp regulation.

Violates federal commerce law by restricting hemp beverage sales across state lines, blocking

Kentucky businesses from selling products that remain legal elsewhere.

Eliminates consumer choice by forcing hemp beverages into alcohol distribution channels, requiring hemp retailers to obtain a quota retail package license despite those licenses being strictly limited and already allocated. (See: Page 35, (2)(c))

Bans in-house service of hemp beverages for businesses that sell them in retail, further restricting small business operations. (See: Page 36, (4))

Hinders research and development by capping THC levels based on arbitrary limits rather than established industry standards or ongoing university research (See: Section 35)

Forces rapid product disposal, giving businesses just 30 days to liquidate inventory,

resulting in significant financial losses and waste. (See: Page 47 (2))

Restricts delivery options, banning hemp beverages from being shipped to dry counties, further limiting accessibility for consumers and businesses. (See: Page 37 (2)(b))

Kentucky's hemp industry has followed every regulation set forth by the CHFS, investing millions in compliance and safety standards. This legislation undermines that progress, disrupts an entire industry, and serves corporate interests over Kentucky small businesses. The KYHA urges lawmakers and their constituents to oppose SB 202 and any amendments that hand control of hemp beverages to Big Alcohol.

Dee Dee Taylor, President 502-409-2292  
Chris Ware, Vice President 205-960-8009

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**2017 DEERE 210G**, Clean machine, runs and operates excellent! Straight body!, steel track, bolt-on pads, 12,782 hours  
Stk. #17JD210EXC..... **\$35,000**



**2012 HITACHI ZX85USB-3**, Nice machine, runs and operates excellent! Push blade, side shift boom, 18 in bucket, nice cab, good glass, good U/C, A/C, ROPS  
Stk. #12HIT85EXC ..... **\$32,000**



**2010 KOMATSU PC350 LC-8**, Nice machine, runs and operates excellent, nice cab, tight machine, 56 in bucket, clean overall shape, ROPS  
Stk. #10KOM350EXC ..... **\$40,000**



**2005 CATERPILLAR 938G II**, Nice wheel loader, normal wear, good cab, not rusty, radial tire, ROPS, A/C/H, lever control  
Stk. #05CAT938WLOAD ..... **\$35,000**



**2013 DEERE 524K**, Good running machine, nice cab, not rusty, runs and operates well, center pin has wear/sell as-is! ROPS, A/C  
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# Agriculture Education Week: Cultivating the future of Kentucky's ag workforce

By Chris Aldridge  
Kentucky Ag News

March 17-21 will mark a milestone in Kentucky's educational landscape as the state celebrates its first-ever Agriculture Education Week. This initiative promises to deliver a dynamic learning experience for students, equip educators with invaluable resources, and foster stronger connections between agriculture and local communities. The week will serve as an interactive opportunity to help students understand agriculture's vital role in everyday



life, regardless of whether they aspire to work in the industry.

In today's digital age, many students are increasingly detached from the origins of their food, fiber, and fuel. Agriculture Education Week

aims to bridge that gap and provide a comprehensive learning experience while helping students explore agriculture as a possible career option.

"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 part of its future," Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell said. "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 ag education today ensures a thriving, sustainable industry for tomorrow."

Kentucky elementary students (kindergarten through fifth grade) can participate in all nine categories of activities during the week, while middle and high school students (sixth through 12th grades) can take part in three categories. Six involve reading and writing, one pertains to social studies, one relates to career studies, and one covers

both social and career studies.

In the career studies category, the week will be highlighted by a live broadcast to all schools of an "Ask an Aggie" program at 1 p.m. EDT Thursday, March 20. The virtual panel discussion, hosted by Miss Kentucky Chapel Tinius, provides students of all ages with an opportunity to submit questions to professionals in Kentucky's agriculture industry and hear their answers. Panelists include: Commissioner Shell, Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation President Eddie Melton, 4-H and FFA State Presidents Callie Derossett and Trenton Page, Hinton Mills Vice President Adam Hinton, a retired veterinarian with the U.S.

Department of Agriculture, and a financial officer for Farm Credit Mid-America.

In the social studies category, The Real Ag Experience will offer agriculture tours that give elementary students a

firsthand look at local farms and agribusinesses. These experiences will connect young Kentuckians with the people and processes that keep our agriculture industry thriving, helping them understand the vital role agriculture plays in their daily lives and future careers.

The Real Ag Experience provides a chance for students to meet farmers, florists, veterinarians, landscapers, greenhouse managers, farm store owners, and ag finance and insurance professionals in their communities. It allows students to make the crucial connection between agricultural products that they rely on and the hard-working people who produce them.

"Students today are tomorrow's leaders, and by helping them connect with agriculture, Ag Education Week will foster the next generation of farmers, entrepreneurs, policymakers, and consumers," Commissioner Shell said.

For more information on Ag 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 <https://www.kyagr.com/marketing/ag-education-week.html>.

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**YFA,**  
*from page A1*

Three contest applications were submitted with Jonathan Reynolds being named the state winner in Rural Leadership, Joel Reddick was the state winner in Soil and Water Conservation and the new WAVE AG YFA effort was named the state runner-up in the Chapter contest after only one year of

existence.

Advisor Dr. Tony Brannon and the other advisors from across the state were recognized for their leadership roles.

WAVE River Counties AG is bringing recognition to agriculture, the engine that drives our economy in Ballard, Carlisle, Hickman, and Fulton Counties, Kentucky. Their motto is "Let's Grow With It"



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316	8	-0.1	78	130	IRON HORSE
324	8	3.3	92	157	MAN IN BLACK
325	9	2.3	85	151	WILDCAT
326	11	+0.4	94	157	BLACK ONYX 918
329	5	+1.4	98	155	ARCHITECT
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# Bluegrass Sales Stables hold regular auction dates



Inside of the auction barn with the small animals in crates.

**By Teresa Pearson**  
Farmers' Quarterly writer

Bluegrass Sales Stables in Trenton, Ky are having regular auctions again.

There are generally two auction's every 2nd and 4th Saturday. One outside, which is yard sale stuff, small wagons, chicken feeders and waterers, and chicken coops etc.. The inside auction is small animals, chickens, quail, parakeets, baby goats, piglets, calves, turkeys, etc.. Then

they have a big animal auction in the same building, cows, donkeys, goats, etc..

First sales start at 9 am but be there early to register for a number or if you are bringing things to sell.

They also have special sales dates for specific animals. Check the Facebook page for dates.

Register at the front office to get a number first. That is how they tag your animal. For small animals you will pull around the

front or just pack them in and large animals go on the side where you pull in.

Small animals need to be in crates and the crate goes with the animal. You will see the flow of things once you get there.

Spring flowers and plants are starting to arrive. Watch their Facebook page for upcoming lists and special auctions.

Bluegrass Sales Stables is located at 205 Tress Shop Road, Trenton, Ky. Phone: 270-265-0102.



Outside view of the Bluegrass Sales Stables.



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# Agriculture Commissioner kicks off Ag Tag season visiting with FFA, 4-H members

*\$10 donation benefits Kentucky agriculture youth*

FRANKFORT, Ky. – Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture Jonathan Shell is making rounds across the state as he visits with FFA members, 4-H members, and Kentucky County Clerks spreading the word about the Ag Tag Program.

“Today’s youth are the future for tomorrow’s agriculture,” Commissioner Shell said. “For years, people renewing their farm license plates have been given the opportunity to strengthen that future by donating to the Ag Tag fund. Through the years, millions have been donated, and our youth are the ones benefiting.”

As he visits 4-H and FFA members at each county stop, Shell goes into detail about the benefits both programs receive from the funds generated by the donations to the Ag Tag program.

Every year, when owners renew their farm license plates, or “ag tags,” which depict the Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s Kentucky Proud logo, along with the 4-H and FFA emblems, they can make a \$10

donation. That money goes into a fund divided equally among Kentucky 4-H, Kentucky FFA, and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) to support Kentucky’s agriculture youth and other organizations and programs benefiting Kentucky’s farm families.

Last year, donations to the Ag Tag program reached a record high of \$931,201.81. From that total, each group received \$310,400.60 to invest back into their communities for youth development and promotional programs.

KDA uses its share of the Ag Tag funds for various programs, such as the Ag Athlete of the Year scholarships, the Kentucky Leopold Conservation Award, Kentucky Women in Agriculture, and Kentucky Agriculture and Environment in the Classroom.

Half of the 4-H and FFA donations are returned to local councils and chapters, allowing leaders in those contributing communities to use the funds to cover the cost of 4-H and FFA camps and other leadership programs for youth. In the past,



Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell has kicked off the annual Ag Tag season visiting with FFA and 4-H students across the state. Drivers renewing their farm license plates, or “ag tags,” which depict the Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s Kentucky Proud logo, along with the 4-H and FFA emblems, can make a \$10 donation. That money goes into a fund divided equally among Kentucky 4-H, Kentucky FFA, and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) to support Kentucky’s agriculture youth and other organizations and programs benefiting Kentucky’s farm families. Above, Shell, center, is pictured with FFA and 4-H students in Simpson County.

(Kentucky Department of Agriculture)

County 4-H councils have used 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 were 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.

“FFA and 4-H 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,” Commissioner Shell said. “This year’s Ag Tag campaign theme is ‘Bluegrass Beginnings, Boundless Futures,’ reflecting the true connection between the Commonwealth and agriculture. Funding from your voluntary donations helps all

three organizations fulfill our mission to sustain Kentucky agriculture for future generations.”

In the weeks to come, Commissioner Shell invites those who are stopping by their county clerk’s office to renew their “Ag Tags,” to also make the \$10 donation.

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# UK Extension takes Big Blue Book Club on the road

By Bailey Vandiver

LEXINGTON, Ky.— The Big Blue Book Club, hosted by Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) in the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, enters a new chapter for the club's 10th book. For the first time, the club will host meetings across Kentucky, exploring the state while reading "My Old Kentucky Road Trip" by UK alumni Cameron M. Ludwick and Blair Thomas Hess. Because "My Old Kentucky Road Trip" includes landmarks and history across Kentucky, taking the book club to some of those places is the "perfect solution to highlighting all that is unique about Kentucky," said Mindy McCulley, FCS extension specialist for instructional support. Each meeting will include a discussion of part of the book; a presentation by an FCS expert that includes relevant, research-based information about travel; and an activity to enjoy "the fabulous locations we're visiting," McCulley said. The Big Blue Book Club will host six

meetings across the state, all at 11 a.m. local time, with some of the specifics still to be determined. The first meeting, held in Frankfort on March 13, can be viewed via Zoom, but the rest of the events will be in person only. "You really can't appreciate the beauty of Kentucky from behind a Zoom screen," McCulley said. Registration for the book club is open now, though the club's allotment of free books have already been claimed. Registrants will receive additional information via email about each meeting. About the Big Blue Book Club The club started in 2021, during the COVID-19 pandemic. "Extension agents requested a 'novel' way to improve clientele morale and reduce feelings of isolation," McCulley said. "After the pandemic restrictions were lifted, it was quickly evident that this type of programming resonated with participants." The book club continued, featuring books recommended by specialists or

participants. Often, like for this next iteration, the format of the club fit the content of the book. For example, the club was asynchronous for "Raising a Healthy, Happy Eater" because parents of young children might find it hard to attend a live event. The Big Blue Book Club has always included people from across Kentucky, so McCulley is excited to get the community together in person. "It feels like a natural progression of this program," she said. About "My Old Kentucky Road Trip" The book "My Old Kentucky Road Trip" began as a blog—when friends Hess and Ludwick realized that they hadn't seen enough of their home state. "We started this writing journey together as two friends driving around the state together," Hess said. "The destinations we selected, the stories we chose to tell, were from the experiences that meant the most to us as friends and as Kentuckians." The road trip they took together became the first



Big Blue Book Club is hosting meetings across the state. Design by Cate Wollert.

of their five Kentucky-focused books. Hess, now vice president for marketing and communications at the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, graduated from the UK Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment in 2010 with a bachelor's in community and leadership development. Ludwick, now the associate director for books marketing and sales at Duke University Press, graduated from the UK College of Arts & Sciences in 2009 with a bachelor's in English. "With all the amazing work UK's extension offices do around the state, they're one of the reasons we're so proud to call Kentucky home,"

Ludwick said. "My Old Kentucky Road Trip" celebrates everything that makes Kentucky a place where communities thrive, and we couldn't be more excited to meet and join the Big Blue Book Club in all the places where its members make such an impact." McCulley said Big Blue Book Club will be a success if participants learn about formerly unfamiliar parts of Kentucky. "We have so many hidden gems," McCulley said. "We are just trying to shine a light on a few of them and encourage people to get to know what is available in their own backyard." Big Blue Book Club Events March 13 – Thomas D. Clark History Center

– Frankfort Meet the Authors of "My Old Kentucky Roadtrip" Discussion topic: Kentucky's Historical Markers \*This meeting will be available live via Zoom. April 1 – Hickman Part 1: Western Kentucky and the Jackson Purchase Discussion topic: Financial Considerations for Local Travel April 15 – Horse Cave Part 2: The Pennyrile Discussion topic: Traveling with Kids April 29 – Midway Part 3: The Bluegrass and Central Kentucky Discussion topic: Local and Cultural Eating while Traveling May 13 – New Castle Part 4: Northern Kentucky and the Ohio River Valley Discussion topic: Traveling for Mental Health Benefits June 13 – Lynch Part 5: Southeastern Kentucky and Appalachia Discussion topic: Travel Safety To learn more and to register for Big Blue Book Club, visit <https://fcs-hes.ca.uky.edu/BBBClub>.

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# Celebrating 160 years of the University of Kentucky—rooted in agriculture, service to the Commonwealth

*The college that became the University of Kentucky was founded in 1865, following the passage of the Morrill Act that established land-grant institutions.*

By Bailey Vandiver  
Contributor Susan Baniak

LEXINGTON, Ky.—  
One day, working in the field at the University of Kentucky Research and Education Center at Princeton, Whitney Peck wondered if she should get a college degree.

As only a high schooler, she was already working part-time for the UKREC forage team and managed a cattle operation with her dad. She knew

cultivating her family farm in Fredonia, Kentucky, was her primary career goal.

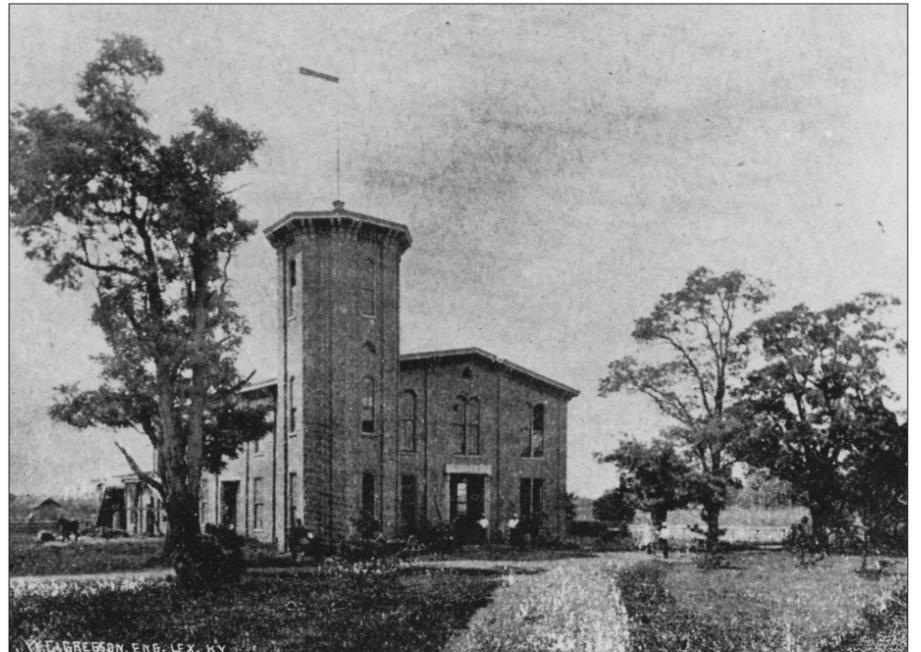
“Maybe college wasn’t for me because I wanted to stay at the farm,” Peck remembers explaining to her boss and mentor Chris Teutsch, extension forage specialist.

Teutsch said he gave her the advice he gives all students: Give the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment “serious consideration.”

Peck did—and now,

as a UK sophomore majoring in animal sciences with an agricultural economics minor, she understands that “education has its impact.”

After 160 years of making an impact, the University of Kentucky celebrates its Founders Day on Feb. 22, 2025. Founded as a land-grant institution in 1865, UK continues to advance agriculture through the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.



Old Mechanical Hall of Ashland Farm, original location of what would become the University of Kentucky, in 1866. Accessed via Explore UK.

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*‘Creative legislation’:  
The Morrill Act of 1862*  
In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed into law the Morrill Act, which established the country’s land-grant system. The federal

government provided states with land that could be sold to fund the establishment of colleges to teach agriculture and mechanical arts.

“The land-grant university system is being built on behalf of the people, who have invested in these public universities their hopes, their support and their confidence,” Lincoln said.

At a 100th anniversary celebration in 1962, guest lecturer Vernon Carstensen, a University of Kentucky history professor, called the Morrill Act “one of the truly creative pieces

of Congressional legislation.”

In 1865, the Kentucky General Assembly made use of this legislation and established the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Kentucky in Lexington. It was originally a publicly chartered department of Kentucky University, a private college owned by the Christian Church, but that partnership was later severed. In 1908, the independent Agricultural and Mechanical College was renamed State University; in 1916, it

see **CELEBRATING**,  
page A13

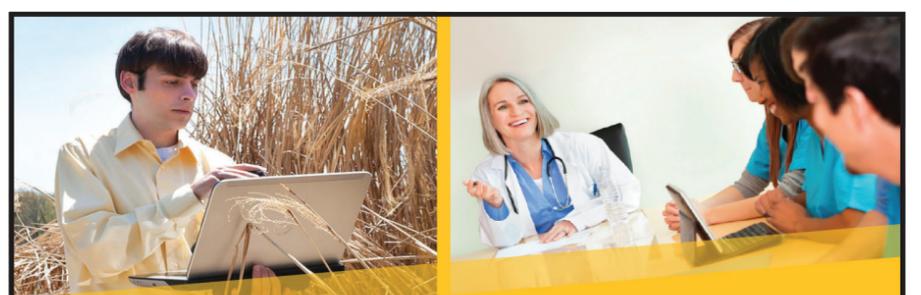


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**CELEBRATING**  
*from page A12*

became the University of Kentucky.

*'A decided step' toward an agriculture college*

Though dedicated in name to the agricultural and mechanical arts, the new Kentucky institution at first lacked formal agriculture instruction. For almost two decades, students learned "practical agriculture" through labor on the college farm.

In 1881, the college hired its first agriculture professor, William Ashbrook Kellerman. President James K. Patterson was very happy to announce this, according to *The College of Agriculture of the University of Kentucky: Early and Middle Years, 1865-1951* by J. Allan Smith.

"For the first time since the establishment of the College a decided step has been taken in the direction of realizing the Congressional idea of instruction (theoretical and practical) in scientific agriculture," Patterson said.

This marked the beginning of the Department of Agriculture; when the college gained university status in 1908, it became the College of Agriculture.

And so it remained for more than a century, until the name changed to the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment in 2013.

"We are aligned with the wider and

more diverse interests of those we serve, including a new and rapidly growing population of undergraduate students," said Scott Smith, dean from 2001 to 2013, at the time of the name change.

"And across Kentucky, many now see agriculture to include not only farming, but also agribusinesses, and the full reach of food systems from local to global."

Through growth and change, the college has remained impactful—and, in turn, the community has continued to support and shape it.

In 2023, The Bill Gatton Foundation made a transformational \$100 million gift to the college, the largest in UK history. To honor Bill Gatton's parents, Edith Martin and Harry W. Gatton Sr., the college was renamed the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment.

Thanks to the generosity of partners and donors, Martin-Gatton CAFE is in a dynamic period of growth and transformation—building the future with capital projects that aim to enhance the college's capacity to improve lives in Kentucky and beyond.

Today, with a student population of 2,600, Martin-Gatton CAFE continues its excellent tradition of educating students.

Randy Weckman worked for the college from 1973 to 2017, as a member of the agricultural communications team



**Roger Barbour, UK zoology professor from 1950-1984, briefs a group of staff members and students before a field trip into Robinson Forest in 1955. Accessed via Explore UK.**

(formerly called the Department of Public Information) and as an associate professor.

He's also the father of two College of Agriculture graduates; one is a physician and the other owns five restaurants. Not everyone can or will be a farmer, and Weckman said the college "excels" at preparing graduates for other career paths, including professional school.

College personnel also have "a high personal touch" with students, Weckman said, which prepares graduates for success.

"They do well because they were nurtured as only the College of Agriculture can do," he said.

*The 'three-legged' land-grant mission*

UK's agricultural impact focuses on teaching, research and extension—what agricultural educators

have historically called "the three-legged stool," according to J. Allan Smith. The Morrill Act established teaching; two additional pieces of federal legislation would formalize the other legs.

In 1887, the United States Congress passed the Hatch Act, which provided federal funds for state agricultural experiment stations. The Kentucky Agriculture Experiment Station had already been operational for two years, with Melville Scovell as its first director.

Since 1886, when the state legislature directed the station to assume responsibility for analyzing and labeling commercial fertilizers sold in the state, the Kentucky Agriculture Experiment Station has performed an

important regulatory function.

Today, researchers work with grants and contracts reaching over \$47 million a year on 20,000 acres of UK farms and forests across the state, including the Robinson Center in Breathitt County and the Research and Education Center at Princeton.

The Smith-Lever Act of 1914 granted financial aid to land-grant colleges to share "useful and practical information" with their state populations. This act formalized and provided a framework for the Cooperative Extension Service, rooted in agricultural clubs and societies that already went back a century or more.

Extension work quickly expanded, including the hiring of additional personnel across the state who educated their communities on topics in agriculture and home economics. Today, UK has an extension office and agents in all 120 counties, strengthening Kentucky's people, farms, food systems and natural resources.

The local connections built between UK experts and Kentucky's farming communities have led to some of the state's most significant agricultural breakthroughs.

In 1962, extension agronomist Shirley Phillips observed the no-tilled corn field and spraying program of UK alumnus Harry Young, Jr. Thanks to Phillips' efforts, the agronomy department established itself as a world leader for research in no-tillage agriculture.

According to a 2021 study, the number of no-till farming acres worldwide had grown to 507.6 million by 2019, or 14.7% of total global cropland, with no-till adoption continuing to grow by roughly 25 million acres per year.

In 2001, UK experts responded to the sudden outbreak of Mare Reproductive Loss Syndrome (MRLS), which caused a high number of

see **CELEBRATING**, page A14



New students in the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Living Learning Program gather for a picnic and bonfire at the UK Horticulture Research Farm on August 16, 2022.

Photo by Matt Barton

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**CELEBRATING**  
*from page A13*

late-term abortions in equine mares across Central Kentucky. Economic damage to the industry was estimated at more than \$300 million.

UK researchers found the cause to be related to the ingestion of the barb-haired eastern tent caterpillars, which had hatched in unusually high numbers in the area during the spring. UK's extensive research into MRLS has led to widely recognized precautions and remedies across the equine industry.

"The UK Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment has built a legacy of excellence through its three land-grant mission areas—advancing teaching, driving groundbreaking research and serving communities through Extension," Stephenson said.

*Looking to the future after 160 years*

From learning about

all aspects of agriculture in AFE 100 to starting the Collegiate Cattlemen club, Peck has found and formed a valuable community during her time at UK.

During her breaks, she continues to work at UKREC in Princeton.

Still part of the forage team, she has continued working on a bale-grazing research study that started when she was still in high school—meaning she started undergraduate research before she was an undergraduate. She's already had the opportunity to present at conferences, and the study will wrap up in March.

She might continue her education after earning her bachelor's, but Peck knows one thing for sure: She'll eventually head home to the farm in Fredonia as "an advocate for agriculture," equipped with the knowledge and community she found at UK.

As a farmer herself, she has enjoyed learning about the resources UK offers



**Members of the 1912 Agricultural Society at what would become the University of Kentucky pose for a photo in front of Scovell Hall. Accessed via Explore UK.**

through research and extension—resources that help people, like her and her dad, who encounter challenges with their family farm.

"I feel like most of the educational materials that we have for agriculture would not be possible without the University of Kentucky being here as a land-grant institution," Peck said.

Building on 160 years of history, the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

aims to continue its excellent record of service.

"Our college has been a cornerstone of innovation, education and service to Kentucky," Stephenson said. "As we honor our history, we remain focused on the future—continuing our mission to advance agriculture, support communities and prepare the next generation of leaders who will shape our Commonwealth."



**A farmer planted no-till corn on his farm in Scott County, Kentucky, in 2021.**

Photo by Matt Barton

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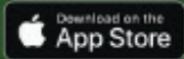
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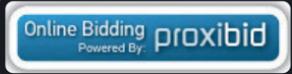
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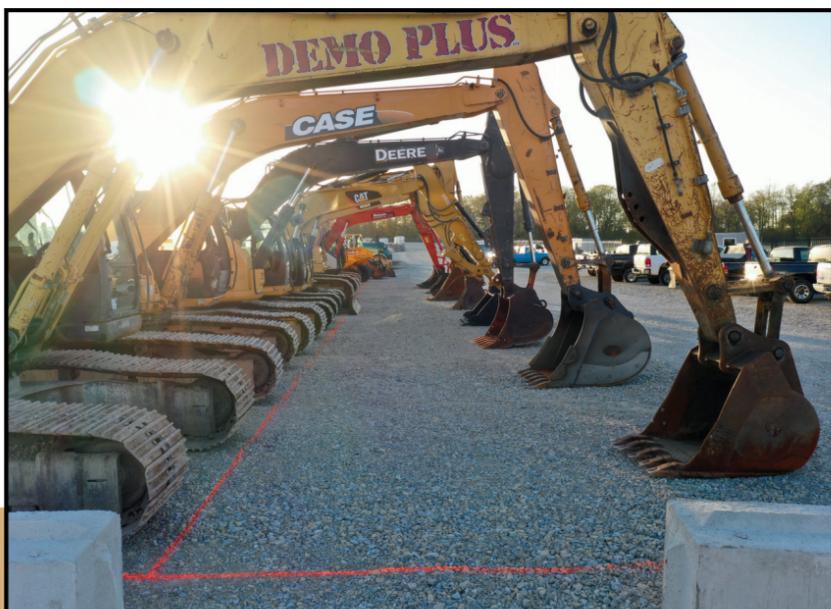
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# UPCOMING SPRING AUCTION SCHEDULE

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31st  
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**Tues,  
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# 2025 Beef Expo sales reach more than \$700K

*39th annual beef showcase brings in increase for average sales over last year*

FRANKFORT, Ky. — The 2025 Kentucky Farm Bureau Beef Expo finished with more than \$700,000 in total sales in the 39th edition of the event at the Kentucky Exposition Center during the first weekend of March.

Total sales in 2025 were \$702,537. Although that represented a decrease of \$137,143 compared to last year's sales, the average sale per lot increased by \$695 to \$3,369 this year. The decrease in total sales was due largely to the decrease in the number of lots sold, which were 208.5 compared to 314 last year.

"Cattle are one of Kentucky's top livestock. As the largest beef cattle state east of the Mississippi River, the Kentucky Farm Bureau Beef Expo showcases that year after year," Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell said. "Although overall sales were down this year compared to last year, we were excited to see average sale prices on the rise. We predict good things in our future."

Angus cattle brought an average of \$4,622 per lot to lead all breeds. The sale topper was a \$15,000 bull from Rocking P Livestock of Maysville, Ky., and Circle M Farms out of Rockwall, Texas. The Beef Expo welcomed 10 states, including Kentucky, and seven breeds this year.

In the junior show, 266 cattle from nine states passed through the show ring, including 192 from Kentucky. This year's judging

contest broke an Expo record with 156 contestants.

The 2025 Beef Expo's main sponsors were

Kentucky Farm Bureau and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.



Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell, fifth from left, met with Kentucky Farm Bureau's executive team and breed representatives during the Kentucky Farm Bureau Beef Expo last week. The group makes up the Beef Expo Board. Each of the breed representatives received a check for premiums and awards.

(Photo courtesy of Kentucky Farm Bureau)



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# University of Kentucky hosts Mass Timber in Appalachia Conference, showcasing innovation and sustainability

*A major conference highlight is the growing recognition that mass timber offers a cleaner, quicker and potentially more cost-effective alternative to traditional construction materials like steel and concrete.*

By Jordan Strickler

Lexington, Ky.— In 2030, the global mass timber industry market size is expected to reach \$3.56 billion. In Kentucky and beyond, understanding why mass timber matters and its impact—lower comparable weight, reduction emissions, faster construction speed and higher propensity to withstand hotter temperatures—is paramount.

To meet this need, the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment is proud to announce the Mass Timber in Appalachia Conference on Friday, March 14. The day-long event will bring together

leading voices in architecture, engineering, forestry, construction and policy to examine how mass timber can advance sustainable building practices—sparking economic opportunities for local communities and supporting responsible forest management in the Appalachian region.

“Mass timber can reduce the overall carbon footprint of a building project, support faster build times and create healthier indoor environments,” said Chad Niman, forest products research specialist in the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources. “Mass timber also allows us to offset the impacts of building by using more wood and managing our



The conference will bring together leading voices in architecture, engineering, forestry, construction and policy to examine how mass timber can advance sustainable building practices.

Photo by Steve Patton

forests. This is especially important in western US forests to reduce catastrophic wildfire.

In addition to

stimulating job creation and economic development, mass timber aligns with current sustainability goals

by sequestering carbon throughout a building’s lifespan. Research has also shown that mass timber can meet rigorous fire and

structural codes, providing impressive resilience in real-world applications.

Part of the day’s programming, participants will have the opportunity to tour UK’s new Innovation District and Gray Design Building where they can view real-world examples of mass timber construction and learn how this emerging technology can be adapted to diverse architectural needs.

Several speakers will be on hand to discuss the importance of mass timber.

Internationally acclaimed architect Jeremy Smith, design director at Irving Smith Architects, will deliver the keynote

see *TIMBER*, page B5

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**TIMBER,**  
from page B4

address. Celebrated for his “soft architecture” approach, Smith has garnered numerous international honors, including UNESCO and UN-Habitat recognition, World Timber Building of the Year and multiple awards from the World Architecture Festival and Indo-Pacific INDE Awards. From rebuilding a cyclone-damaged forest home in Aotearoa New Zealand to teaching iterative design at the University of Auckland, Smith’s practice and research explore how buildings respond to environments constantly in flux—whether in urban centers or rural landscapes.

Alongside Smith, attendees will hear from a diverse lineup of experts. Among those, Niman will share insights drawn from his experience leading hardwood

mass timber initiatives. Daniel Hindman, associate professor of wood engineering at Virginia Tech’s Department of Sustainable Biomaterials, will discuss cross-laminated timber research—focusing on the use of non-traditional species, connection design and innovations in construction processes.

Interactive breakout sessions will give attendees the opportunity to exchange ideas with leaders in forestry, architecture and engineering on practical strategies to expand mass timber usage. Topics of discussion will encompass the environmental benefits of wood-based construction—such as carbon sequestration, reduced weight and shorter building times—and the economic advantages of sourcing materials locally.

“Because this material is often

sourced from responsibly managed forests, mass timber construction helps promote local economies by encouraging demand for regional hardwoods and creating opportunities for rural communities in Appalachia,” Niman said. “This conference will be a great opportunity for everyone involved in the forest and construction sectors and we are glad to bring a great group of speakers and experts together.”

The event runs 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. EST at the UK Gatton Student Center Grand Ballroom C. The cost \$50 for in-person attendance and \$20 for online webinars. Lunch will be provided. To see a complete agenda, including a full list of speakers, visit [www.KYMassTimber.com](http://www.KYMassTimber.com).

To register, visit <https://www3.ca.uky.edu/worldpay/form/forestry-mass-timber/>.



## The importance of a handshake

By Abby Lyell  
Graves County FFA teacher

Recently, the Graves County FFA Officer team was trained by The Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s Safety Administrator and Raising Hope Program Coordinator, Dale Dobson, on the importance of a handshake!

The FFA Chapter and the Graves County Kentucky Farm Bureau team have been working

together to start a challenge coin program to help promote mental health awareness amongst agricultural professionals in our community and let those special people know that THEY ARE APPRECIATED!

Look out folks, because you might catch a GC FFA Member handing you a coin here soon! We are also challenging you to never miss an opportunity to let the people around you

know that they are appreciated, because you never know how much of a difference those words can mean!



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# Customizable grain bins:

## *Elevating on-farm storage to the next level*

Via:grainsystems.com

On-farm storage is more than just a convenience for grain producers. It's a vital asset for protecting grain quality, providing flexibility in commodity markets and allowing growers to maximize revenue potential by keeping grain on-site.

"Grain prices are rarely lower than during harvest and seldom higher than just before harvest," said Mat Tallman, Senior Product Manager at GSI. "Investing in on-farm storage allows producers to hold their crop until the market conditions align with their goals, giving them a significant advantage."

While a grain bin's core purpose remains the same, no two farms are alike. Operational goals, grain types and required storage space vary significantly from producer to producer. That's where customization comes in. Tailoring a grain bin system to specific needs can unlock additional efficiencies and benefits, setting your operation apart.

### **The Value of Grain Bin Customization**

### **and Flexibility**

A one-size-fits-all approach doesn't work for farming operations, and GSI understands that. Customizable grain bins and accessories enable growers to design a storage system that fits their unique needs while allowing room for future growth.

"No two farms are the same," said Tallman. "Being able to tailor equipment to meet specific operational goals, pain points and long-term plans is critical. Our dealers work closely with producers to provide solutions, not just products."

*This adaptability allows growers to:*

- Address unique operational needs by customizing systems for space, grain types or drying requirements.
  - Plan for growth by upgrading or expanding storage without starting from scratch.
  - Manage costs efficiently by adding advanced features over time as their operations evolve.
- Additionally, GSI's broad portfolio of products — from storage to material handling and conditioning systems — allows growers to



create efficient grain management solutions that are best for their operations.

### **Grain Bin Customization Options That Work for You**

GSI offers a wide range of customizable grain bin accessories designed to optimize storage, enhance safety and improve operational efficiency, including:

#### *Customizable flooring options:*

Cut-Lok floors prevent restrictions to airflow and provide an efficient and reliable solution for common crops such as corn and soybeans. Dura-

Lok floors feature a unique locking system that reduces floor movement and supports extreme load conditions, making it ideal for large-scale grain storage. GSI also provides flooring with various perforation sizes to ensure optimal aeration for smaller grains such as canola or rice, preventing material loss and maintaining grain quality.

*Fans and aeration systems:* Maintaining grain quality requires proper airflow, and GSI provides various solutions to meet different needs. Vane axial fans offer a cost-effective choice

for standard applications, while centrifugal fans deliver high performance with greater airflow and pressure, making them ideal for larger or taller bins.

*Bin Sweeps:* The Direct Gear Drive power sweeps feature a redesigned center well with fewer components for easier installation and durable steel roller bearings for smooth gate operation and long-lasting performance. The GSI paddle sweeps use flexible rubber paddles to move grain gently, protecting grain quality and

minimizing damage. *Stairs, ladders and platforms:* Safety and accessibility are key considerations for any grain bin system. GSI addresses these needs by offering stairs that provide safer and easier bin access compared to ladders, as well as roof stairs and platforms equipped with smooth ergonomic handrails for secure access to critical areas.

*GrainVue Technology:* GrainVue offers cutting-edge monitoring solutions by automating temperature and humidity management. This smart system minimizes the risk of grain spoilage, providing growers with peace of mind and reducing the need for manual monitoring.

What sets GSI apart in the industry is its commitment to quality, breadth of offerings and dealer expertise. "We're not just selling bins," explained Tallman. "We're providing systems that grow with producers over time. Our goal is to deliver solutions that help growers achieve their goals now and in the future."

GSI's dealer network plays a key role in this process, offering personalized service to design systems tailored to each farm's unique requirements. With a focus on safety, quality and long-term value, GSI remains a trusted partner for grain producers across the U.S.

### **Ready to Build Your Custom Grain Bin System?**

Contact your Workman Bins in Mayfield, KY at 270-209-0259 to learn more about GSI's grain bins and accessories. Whether you're optimizing an existing setup, expanding your operation or planning a large-scale system, GSI has the customizable solutions you need to succeed.



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# Why do farmers choose Shivers performance systems

via Shivers.com

Simple. Farmers choose Shivers because our grain drying systems let you focus on harvest with:

- Our patented counter-flow drying technology
- Set-it-and-forget-it automated operation
- Multi-crop and surge drying capabilities
- Remote drying and storage management controls

Integration with new or existing bins

A Shivers Complete Performance System means less babysitting, fewer operating costs, higher test weights and more money that stays in your pocket.

Automated Drying Through Set-It-and-Forget-It Technology

Shivers defines "no babysitting" as precise, automated control, achieved through our computerized Command Center control units. The Command Center monitors the entire process, taking periodic readings and adjusting the plenum heat to prevent over drying. Once grain reaches your desired moisture content, it's automatically transferred to storage

bins. Any grain that hasn't reached the right moisture content yet will be suspended in the drying zone until those conditions are met.

*What does this mean for you?*

It means having enough surge capacity for the dryer to run 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

It means you can concentrate on harvest with the peace of mind that your command center has your grain drying operation under (automatic) control.

*Unmatched Drying Efficiency*

Generating heat costs money, making efficient drying a vital part of any grain operation.

Shivers' Counter-Flow technology allows this heated air to penetrate deeper into the grain during the drying process, reaching anywhere from 36 to 96 inches vs. a conventional system's 12 to 18 inches. This extra depth ensures the heat reaches further into your stored grain to maximize efficiency and minimize operating costs, by not exhausting any heated air before it



reaches its maximum moisture-holding capabilities.

For example, a 48-foot drying tank with a Shivers system will see an average of 5,792 to 8,688 bushels of grain dried before the heat is fully exhausted from the top of the bin. By utilizing larger grain depths, you get a more efficient use of heat and airflow with reduced operating costs.

And with your automated Command Center, over drying is avoided since the heat and transfer settings are automatically updated once your grain reaches the set moisture content. Over drying also contributes to a large amount of lost energy and decreased grain

value. If the Command Center detects that over drying may occur, it automatically adjusts plenum temperatures to ensure proper moisture is reached.

*What does this mean for you?*

It means less energy waste, more grain quality and more money in your pocket.

Higher Retention Time = Higher Test Weights

Retention time is the duration of time that grain is held in a dryer or drying bin while trying to achieve both targeted moisture content and kernel quality. Every Shivers Complete Performance System uses counter-

flow drying to process the same amount of grain as other methods. But unlike other drying systems, Shivers retains each kernel in the drying bin a bit longer. Not only does this achieve precise moisture content, but it also eliminates unnecessary stress on kernels and energy waste.

Because common cross-flow dryers process grain at depths averaging 12 to 18 inches, it could take anywhere from 30 minutes to 2 hours for grain to enter and exit the dryer. The grain is subjected to very high temperatures over a short amount of time, before being cooled just as quickly. This can result in more stress cracking.

A Shivers system, on the other hand, averages 3 to 8 feet of grain depth. A single kernel can see 12 hours of drying before it is transferred out of the bin. Since a larger volume of grain is dried with the same amount of heat, each kernel is dried more slowly, and energy is more fully utilized.

And don't forget; just because grain dries

slower does not mean that the dryer is itself slower or has less capacity. It just means that more grain is in the dryer exposed to drying air for a longer period of time. Independent tests conducted at Michigan State University, Purdue University and Iowa State University confirm what we knew all along: counter-flow drying is superior.

*What does this mean for you?*

Dramatically higher test weights, with added profit thanks to less energy usage.

Multi-Crop Drying Capabilities

Shivers systems maintain their efficiency with specialty grains, delivering exceptional capacity at the lower 90°-160° temperatures commonly used. Combined with the precision control of your Shivers command center, such drying efficiency allows operators to dry a wide range of specialty grains from yellow corn to white rice and so much more in between. For more information Contact Workman Bins in Mayfield, KY at 270-209-0259

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



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



**2014 JOHN DEERE S670**  
 Serial Number: 1H0S670SPE0765701  
 4 WD, 2126/155 hours, 520/85R42 duals, chopper, contour master, power fold bin extensions  
**\$98,500**



**2014 JOHN DEERE 7230R**  
 Serial Number: 1RW7230RPES082871  
 MFWD, 5628 hours, E23 transmission, 59 GPM hyd pump, \*windshield cracked, 480/50 rear duals  
**\$88,500**



**2009 JOHN DEERE 8330**  
 Serial Number: RW8330P047376  
 MFWD, 7010 hours, 480/46 rear duals, 3 SCV, 1000 PTO, auto track ready  
**\$75,000**



**JOHN DEERE 4630**  
 Serial Number: 1N04630XJC0023545  
 2671 hours, 80' booms, 3 way nozzle bodies, 15" spacing, 5 section cut off, hyd treat adjust  
**\$74,500**



**2009 JOHN DEERE 8230**  
 Serial Number: RW8230P044966  
 7588 hours, rear duals, 3 SCV, 1000 PTO, quick hitch, 16 speed powershift  
**\$71,500**



**2011 CASE IH STEIGER 450 HD**  
 Serial Number: ZBF125707  
 4 WD, 7871 HOURS, 480/95R50 DUALS, 4 SCV, 1000 PTO, 16 speed, powershift, LHR, 4 rear hydraulics  
**\$70,000**



**2012 JOHN DEERE 7130**  
 Serial Number: RW7130H031212  
 MFWD, C/H/A, 3682 hours, JD 740 loader w/bucket, 3 SCV, 16 speed power quad  
**\$69,500**



**2016 JOHN DEERE 6110R**  
 Serial Number: 1L06110RAGH849542  
 MFWD, C/H/A 4160 hours, JD 640R loader w/bucket, 340/24 front tires, 460/34 rear, 16 speed, LHR  
**\$67,500**



**2020 JOHN DEERE 708C**  
 Serial Number: 1H00708CCLX810095  
 Corn head, knife rolls, hyd deck plates, header height sensors, row sense, 30 in spacing, 8 rows  
**\$49,500**



**2019 JOHN DEERE 708C**  
 Serial Number: 1H00708CHKX805085  
 Knife rolls, hyd deck plages, header height sensors, Yetter stalk devastator kit, wagon not inc.  
**\$49,500**



**2008 JOHN DEERE 1890 CCS**  
 Serial Number: A01890C725751  
 Drill, 36', 7.5" spacing, w/JD 1910 air cart, 195 BU, rebuilt 2 years ago  
**\$45,000**



**2018 CASE IH 4408**  
 Serial Number: YHH632699  
 Corn head, 8 row, 30" spacing, wagon not included, stock number 2610  
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**J&M 1151**  
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**2018 CASE IH 3020**  
Serial Number: YJH231903  
30' cutting width, stock number 2655  
**\$24,500**



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



**2013 CASE IH 3408**  
Serial Number: YSD040204,  
Corn head, knife rolls, hydraulic deck plates, Stock # 2698  
**\$16,000**



**1979 JOHN DEERE 4840**  
Serial Number: 4840P005427R6  
2 WD, C/H/A, 8028 hours, JD push blade, 3 SCV, 1000 PTO, 2 speed powershift  
**\$16,000**



**2010 JOHN DEERE 635F**  
Serial Number: 1H00635FJA0736692  
Flex platform, 35 ft. cutting width, Stock Number 2577  
**\$11,500**



**JOHN DEERE 4630**  
Serial Number: H00630F730512  
30 ft. cutting width, good used condition, stock number 2638  
**\$10,500**



**GREAT PLAINS 2220**  
Air drill w/GP NTA 3010, 30', 7.5" spacing, not till, stock number 2727  
**\$8,500**



**2017 CASE IH 4408**  
Serial Number: YHH632696  
Com head, knife rolls, hyd deck plates, header wagon not included  
**\$34,500**



**HORSCH PANTHER 460**  
Serial Number: 110046018003  
60' 500 BU cart w/3 compartments, 30,000-35,000 AC, new rear pkg wheel shims & bolts, less sweep  
**\$165,000**



**2023 JOHN DEERE 630F**  
Serial Number: 1CQ0630AKP0145573  
Header wagon not included, AG star header wagon \$5,500, 30 ft. cutting width  
**\$35,000**

## Spring Farm Equipment AUCTION

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### RECEIVING HOURS

April 1st - April 23rd M-F 8 am - 5 pm; Sat. 8 am - 12 pm  
April 24th: NOT RECEIVING EQUIPMENT

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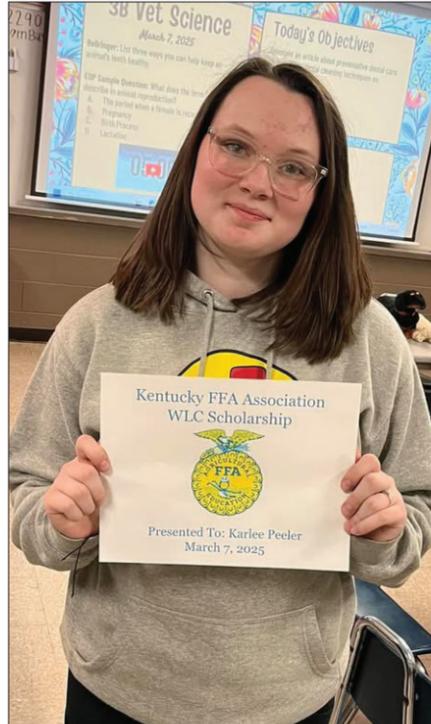
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Congratulations to Graves County FFA Members, Jayce Hale and Karlee Peeler, on being selected as recipients of the Kentucky FFA Foundation's Washington Leadership Conference Scholarship! This summer, Graves County FFA will be sending a group of students to the National FFA Washington Leadership Conference in Washington, DC for the first time in 20 years!



The Four River Counties 4-H Leadership Academy recently toured several Ballard County farms. Visits were hosted by local farmers who are agricultural leaders in the field and beyond. Thank you to Allen Pace and Neil Denton for sharing your wisdom and knowledge. Judge Executive Todd Cooper shared his vision of leadership. In addition, a manners and etiquette lesson was taught by Ballard County extension agents, Tom Miller and Sarah Drysdale. The meal was catered by Smokey D's in order to practice manners and networking skills. The Four River Counties 4-H Leadership Academy is made up of juniors in the four river counties of far Western Kentucky and sponsored by WAVE River Counties AG Initiative.

## GCHS FFA hosts Regional Paperwork Night

By Abby Lyell  
Graves County FFA teacher

Recently, the GC FFA Chapter hosted the 12 chapters of the Purchase Region FFA Association for Regional Paperwork Night.

Paperwork Night is the time for scoring FFA members proficiency applications. These extensive proficiency applications outline FFA member's dedication to their Supervised Agricultural Education programs, as well as their growth and development as young leaders and

professionals. They take hours and hours to complete, but boy did all that work pay off!

We submitted 5 proficiency applications and all 5 placed!

Join us in congratulating the following students:

- 1st Place Dairy Production Placement - Katie Woolf
- 1st Place Diversified Livestock - Mannix Hamilton
- 1st Place Goat Production - Darcey Sloan
- 1st Place Nursery Operations - Cole Hayden
- 3rd Place Equine Placement - Jayce Hale



Jayce Hale

**BUT THATS NOT ALL!**

Jayce Hale interviewed and was elected by the nominating committee to serve as the 2025-2026 Purchase Region Reporter!



Madi Schmidt and Collin Cooper along with WAVE AG Regional Facilitator and Young Farmer Advisor Tony Brannon accepted the State Runner-up award in the Chaper Contest at the 47th annual Ky Young Farmer Convention recently.

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# Kentucky Master Ag teachers tour MSU

By KPI Staff

The Kentucky Master Ag Teachers recently visited eastern Kentucky, where they toured Morehead State University, Fleming County High School, and KWI. During their visit, the teachers took the opportunity to evaluate their programs and work on their local annual reports. One of the participating

teachers, Mercedes Branham from Carlisle County High School, is part of the Kentucky Master Ag Teacher Cohort. This program allows her to attend various trainings and tours, which she can bring back to enhance the Carlisle FFA program.

When asked about the most valuable insight she has gained to help her program grow, Branham

responded, "It has allowed me to see what other programs across the state are doing and implement those ideas in our program. It has positively affected how we recruit members, engage with the community, and prepare for contests. This experience helps me share new opportunities with our students that they might not have been aware of otherwise."



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# KACTE entrepreneurship event winners announced

Frankfort- The winners of the thirteenth annual KACTE Entrepreneurship Event were announced today in Frankfort. The event was sponsored by the Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education and was coordinated by the state advisors of the Career and Technical Education Student Organizations.



Keyli Courtney

The event challenged high school career and technical education students to develop a plan for an entrepreneurial business. Students were required to submit an online video as well as a one page executive summary of their business plan. The videos were to be designed to provide information on the business plan to potential investors. Both the videos and the executive summaries were evaluated by a panel of outside judges.

The winning project was submitted by Keyli Courtney of Fancy Farm. Keyli will receive a \$1000 first prize. Keyli's video highlighted her business Keyli's Crops. Keyli produced one acre of pumpkins in partnership with her grandfather. She marketed her pumpkins through social media and a mobile trailer. She also sold pumpkins

at several local events and festivals. Keyli is a member of FFA at Carlisle County High School. Her advisors is Mercedes Branham.

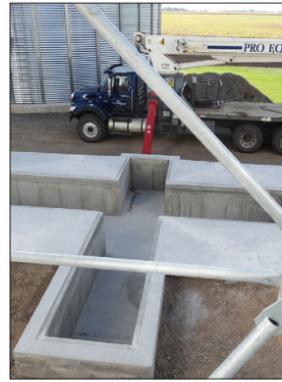
The second place project was submitted by Kayton Shewmaker of Lebanon. Her business K8 designs grew out of her love of art and crafting. Kayton produces custom ornaments, custom signs, and offers design work on demand. She sells her products through social media, pop up events, and local festivals. Kayton will receive the second prize of \$750. Click here to watch her video. Kayton is a member of the Marion County HOSA. Her advisors are Ginger Allen and Chastity Gribbins.

The third place project was submitted by Claire Elliott of Lexington. Claire's video related to her business Soccer and Santa. Claire's business grew out of her love of soccer and her

desire to share the game with younger students. In December of 2024, she hosted her first event Soccer and Santa where students learned soccer skills and got to visit with Santa Claus. Claire plans to host other events throughout the year and hopes to use her winnings to grow her business. Click here to view here video. Claire is a member of FBLA at Frederick Douglass High School and her advisor is Bradley Scroggin.

The fourth place project was submitted by Lauren Taylor of Springfield. Lauren's business 2 Chicks Farm began by producing vegetables and jellies for the local farmers market. She has expanded to producing customized items for customers. Her services include engraving, embroidery, and custom design work. Click here to learn more about Lauren's business. Lauren is a member of FFA at Washington County High School where her advisors are Bart Mattingly and Nathaniel Messer.

Thanks is extended to KACTE for sponsoring this event and to all the students who participated. Contact Matt Chaliff [matt.chaliff@education.ky.gov](mailto:matt.chaliff@education.ky.gov) or Mike Stone [kmstone@mis.net](mailto:kmstone@mis.net) for more information.



## Sudenga's SDDO: The ultimate grain pit upgrade

Via [www.sudenga.com](http://www.sudenga.com)

There are several disadvantages to installing a traditional dual receiving pit. First off, they require a very deep hole to be dug, which can only be achieved through significant excavating work, yards of concrete and rebar, and hours of on-site fabrication and equipment installation. The equipment that accompanies these deep pits requires more height and operational horsepower. As a result, deep dual inlet pits are often very expensive to install and maintain. Ground water seepage can become a very serious issue with these installations as well. Safety is also a concern, as confined space entry is required when repairing or cleaning the equipment and pit.

Fortunately, Sudenga's Shallow Double Drive Over is not like traditional dual receiving pits. Our system gives the installer the choice of how deep they want to install a system into the ground. In some cases, the unit can be installed on grade, requiring only site leveling. Another solution is digging a shallow trench, often

less than four feet deep. This shallower pit requires significantly less rebar and concrete than a traditional pit. Our SDDO also provides easy access to equipment, which is often as simple as removing a grate section. Our entire system is modular, so it can fit a variety of site layouts and applications.

**IMPROVE SAFETY & EFFICIENCY:** Our SDDO requires less dirt work and excavation, so less time and resources are necessary to install. Installation is easier as well, as most of the installation work is done on grade. Less support equipment is necessary, like cranes and backhoes, as the drive over equipment can often be installed with smaller lifting equipment—no need to dig big holes. The equipment surrounding low-profile pits is typically less expensive, as heights are shorter because equipment can be installed on grade. Lastly, eliminating a deep pit ensures that personnel are not required to enter a confined space to clean or repair equipment associated with the grain pit.

Traditional dual receiving pits require extensive excavation, concrete pouring, and on-site fabrication, leading to high installation and

maintenance costs. Meanwhile, Sudenga's Shallow Double Drive Over (SDDO) offers flexibility in installation depth. Install on grade or dig a shallow trench, reducing the need for extensive concrete and rebar. Accessing the equipment is simple, and the modular system fits various layouts.

DoubleDriveOver-2-1024x576.jpg  
Shallow Double Drive Over in use near Burt, Iowa

**SDDO AT A GLANCE:**

- Shallow pit requirement: only 38" or 45" trench depth.
  - Enclosed conveyor: trench can be open at the end for water drainage.
  - Designed for 40'-53' grain trailers.
  - Modular system can be custom configured to fit your application
  - Installed under truck scales or in a shallow trench under a driveway
  - Minimizes concrete and dirt work during installation, while maximizing efficiency for the operation once installed
  - Unloads a typical grain trailer at capacities up to 17,500 bushels per hour
- If you are looking to upgrade to Sudenga's solution for streamlined grain pit operations contact Workman Bins in Mayfield, KY at 270-209-0259.



Shallow Double Drive Over in use near Burt, Iowa



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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 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 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 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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# Boost efficiency and protect your harvest:

## How to select the right grain dryer

via [grainsystems.com](http://grainsystems.com)

Grain drying is essential for farmers to protect their crops and maximize profitability. The right grain dryer can improve efficiency, maintain grain quality and meet the specific needs of different operations. Whether a farm requires flexibility, high capacity or energy efficiency, having the proper type of drying system in place is critical. Farmers must consider factors like capacity, ease of use, service and the long-term impact on grain quality when selecting a dryer that suits their unique operation.

“Each operation has different priorities. Some may prioritize a cost-effective entry into high-temperature drying, while others require advanced systems to handle large grain volumes or preserve grain for human consumption,” said Alan Lockwood, product manager of grain conditioning at GSI. “Understanding these varied needs is key to making an informed choice when investing in a grain drying system.”

### A Grain Dryer for Every Scenario

With varying farm sizes and grain drying requirements, several dryer options are essential to meet each farmer's capacity, efficiency and budget needs.

#### Portable Dryers:

Designed for lower bushel capacity farms or those needing flexibility, portable dryers can dry up to 2,500 bushels per hour and offer a cost-effective way to enter high-temperature drying. Multiple configurations are available, ranging from a single-module, single-fan system to a three-module, six-fan system.

#### Tower Dryers:

Engineered for medium to large operations, tower dryers offer high-capacity solutions capable of drying up to 12,000 bushels per hour. These cross-flow dryers use a single, vertical plenum that naturally distributes the most heat to the top of the dryer to quickly get the grain up to drying temperature, excelling in throughput and efficiency. A standout feature is the vacuum cooling system, which recaptures heat from the cooling grain and directs it back into the drying process, improving fuel efficiency.

**TopDry Dryers:** This option combines drying and storage in one efficient unit, offering exceptional fuel efficiency and grain quality preservation. Drying occurs in a chamber near the dryer's roof, while heat is reclaimed from the cooling grain in the storage bin to improve fuel efficiency. Capable of handling up to 2,100 bushels per hour, TopDry systems are



ideal for operations where grain quality is a priority. Additionally, they can double as long-term storage at the end of the drying season.

**Mixed Flow Dryers:** Mixed flow dryers offer gentle, uniform drying that preserves grain quality across various commodities. Their even heat distribution minimizes stress and potential damage to the grain. Unlike screen dryers, mixed flow dryers are designed to handle a range of crops without the need for frequent adjustments, though drying times may vary depending on the specific crop. With capacities of up to 5,000 bushels per hour, they are ideal for moderate to large operations focused on high-quality grain and efficient throughput across multiple crop types.

“The right grain

dryer can make a significant difference for farmers by improving efficiency, grain quality and profitability,” said Lockwood. “Whether it's the flexibility of a portable dryer, the capacity of a tower system, or the grain-preserving benefits of a mixed flow or TopDry system, having the right equipment allows farmers to match their drying needs to their specific operation. Ultimately, it's about giving farmers the tools to protect their harvest and maximize their investment.”

### Find Your Perfect Grain Dryer with GSI's Easy-to-Use Selection Tool

Choosing the best dryer for your operation can be a complex decision involving many factors, from capacity to energy efficiency to

versatility. To simplify the process, GSI developed a Grain Dryer Selection Tool. This tool asks farmers about their operation size, grain types and specific needs, providing a tailored recommendation. Benefits include:

**Ease of use:** The tool is simple and user-friendly, with multiple-choice questions that require minimal input, making it easy for farmers to get started.

**Customized recommendations:** It provides tailored dryer recommendations by asking a few questions about a farm's specific needs, such as operation size and grain types, helping farmers find the right solution.

**Comprehensive options:** Selections offer a range of dryers — portable, tower, mixed flow or TopDry — allowing farmers to

explore the best options suited to their operation's capacity and drying requirements.

**Informed decision-making:** The tool empowers farmers to research and explore their options before consulting with a GSI dealer.

**Unique in the industry:** This revolutionary tool is a one-of-a-kind offering, streamlining the decision process and helping farmers stay informed about their grain drying options.

“GSI developed the Grain Dryer Selection Tool to empower farmers with informed decisions tailored to their unique needs. Whether you prioritize fuel efficiency, grain quality or budget, our range of dryers offers the perfect solution,” said Lockwood. “We're committed to helping farmers choose the right grain drying system for their operation and achieve long-term success.”

### Choose GSI for a Grain Dryer That's Right for You

With the Grain Dryer Selection Tool and expert support, GSI makes it easy to find the ideal dryer for your farm. Our wide range of options and dedication to quality ensure you're investing in a solution that will pay off for years to come.

For more information Contact Workman Bins in Mayfield, KY at 270-209-0259

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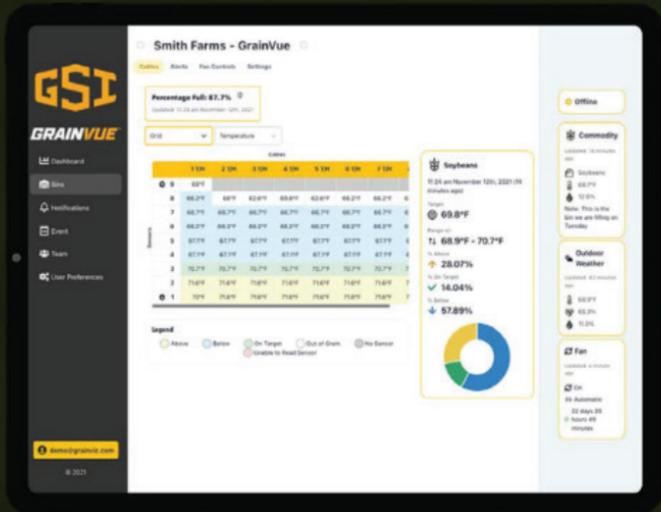
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