

FARMERS' Quarterly

★★★ **SPRING PLANTING & SPRING LIVESTOCK** ★★★



Abyrona and Julia represented the Fulton County FFA Chapter as delegates during Purchase Region Paperwork Day, participating in the voting process for new regional officers and the state officer candidate.



Carlisle County FFA member Brooklyn Dunn was selected as the 2026–2027 Purchase Region FFA President during regional elections held at Graves County High School. Dunn will take the reins from current president Kase Kelly.

Purchase Region FFA holds officer elections and paperwork evaluation at GCHS

By Laurna Todd
FQ Writer

GRAVES COUNTY, Ky. — FFA members from across western Kentucky gathered at Graves County High School for the annual Purchase Region FFA Officer Elections and Paperwork Evaluation, an event highlighting student leadership and recognizing the work students put into their agricultural education programs.

During the evening's officer elections, Brooklyn Dunn of Carlisle County High School was selected as the 2026–2027 Purchase

Region FFA President. Dunn will take the reins from current president Kase Kelly and will help lead and represent FFA members throughout the Purchase Region during the coming year.

Also representing Carlisle County in the election process were Knox Kelly and Addyson Oliver, who served as chapter delegates.

The event also included Purchase Region Paperwork Night, where proficiency applications and other FFA records were evaluated. These applications highlight students' Supervised

Agricultural Experience (SAE) programs, documenting their work experiences, agricultural projects, leadership development, and skills gained through FFA.

The Carlisle County FFA Chapter had seven students advance to represent the chapter at the state level in April through the proficiency award process.

Regional proficiency results for Carlisle County included Regional Champions Brooklyn Dunn (Agricultural Education), Kase Kelly (Agricultural Services), Arabella

Hoskins (Agriscience Research–Animal Systems), Reese Eddleman (Diversified Horticulture), Chase Murphy (Forest Management & Services), Myles Fourshee (Fruit Production), and Jonah Bruer (Specialty Crop Production).

Ty Watson earned Regional Runner-Up in Beef Entrepreneurship.

Keyli Courtney (Vegetable Production) and Eden Bruer (Agriculture Essay) received Regional Superior ratings.

see FFA,
page B2

Managing mud on your cattle farm

By Laurna Todd
FQ Writer

Spring thaw can bring welcome warmth, but it also brings a familiar headache for cattle farmers: mud. While seasoned ranchers know the challenges it creates, newcomers might overlook how muddy conditions can threaten both herd health and farm profits. Here's how to stay ahead of one of farming's messier problems.

Sloppy Ground, Real Risks

Muddy fields aren't just inconvenient—they're dangerous. Animals can get stuck, slip, or injure themselves, and inventory discrepancies can occur if cattle wander off. Keeping a close head count is essential. For larger properties, consider using a video drone to gain a bird's-eye view, making it easier to monitor the herd and spot trouble quickly.

Analyze Your Land and Get Expert Help

Understanding your soil type and slope is the first step in managing muddy areas. Once you identify trouble spots, limit your herd's access to reduce the risk of injury and

stress.

County Extension Offices

County offices across Western Kentucky provide soil testing services and help interpret the results. It's a good idea to call first to see if this service is available at your local office. Extension agents offer guidance on pasture, forage, and grazing management, and can suggest strategies to reduce muddy areas. Many offices also provide on-site consultations or connect farmers with soil and agronomy specialists for more complex issues. Using these local resources helps protect your herd and improve the overall productivity of your land.

Top 4 Things Farmers Can Do to Reduce Mud

Rotate High-Traffic Areas – Move feeding, watering, and mineral stations to drier parts of the pasture. Rotating locations spreads traffic and prevents deep mud from forming in one spot.

Improve Drainage

– Add small ditches, see MUD, page A3

ONLINE | NO RESERVE AUCTIONS

Selling Wednesday, March 18 | purplewave.com

EF2323 '16 Trebro Autostack II sod harvester

EF2418 '12 John Deere 7550 forage harvester

FFA,
from page A1

Murphy was also selected as one of the top two members in the Purchase Region for Star in Placement and will interview later this month to determine if he will advance to the state

level. Students from several chapters earned recognition during the evaluation process. Graves County FFA submitted nine applications, and all nine placed in regional competition.

Graves County first-place winners included Katie Woolf (Dairy

Production Placement), Mannix Hamilton (Diversified Livestock), Darcey Sloan (Goat Production), Karlee Peeler (Environmental Science/Natural Resources), and Jayce Hale (Equine Placement).

Second-place finishes went to Adam Goode (Agricultural Mechanics Repair and Maintenance)

and Maddox Stamper (Fruit Production), while Karlee Peeler placed third in Wildlife Management.

Additional honors were also announced. Addy Paschal was selected by the nominating committee to serve as the 2026-2027 Purchase Region FFA Reporter. Members

Darcey Sloan and Morgan Burton served on the regional nominating committee.

Fulton County FFA was also represented, with delegates Abryona and Julia participating in the voting process. Jackson Major earned first place in the Regional Wildlife Management Proficiency, advancing

his project to state competition.

The annual event ensures student applications and chapter documentation meet required standards while celebrating the dedication and accomplishments of young agricultural leaders across the Purchase Region.



Ballard County 4-H and FFA members recently joined Mary Warford, Ballard County Chief Deputy Clerk, to promote the AG TAG Program and the new Friends of Agriculture license plates. Warford, a former 4-H and FFA member herself, proudly supports both organizations. Pictured left to right are Kallie Parker, Aubrey Crowley, Cayden Powell, Lacey Burnley, Mary Warford, Addie Haley, Annlee Polivick, Kate O'Neill, Kenslee Shepherd and Ella Baker. Not pictured are Ike Miller and Miley Parker.



The Ballard County 4-H Council recently recognized members who have achieved 10 years of participation in 4-H, including involvement in elementary clubs, 4-H camp, leadership programs and civic engagement activities. The council presented each member with a commemorative 10-Year 4-H fleece blanket. Pictured left to right are Kallie Parker, Lacey Burnley, Ike Miller, Kate O'Neill and Ella Baker. Not pictured is Miley Parker.

Ballard County youth promote agriculture through new license plate program

By Laurna Todd
FQ Writer

Ballard County continues to celebrate its strong agricultural roots, thanks in part to the dedication of local youth involved in 4-H and FFA. The two

organizations work closely together to encourage leadership, service, and agricultural education among young people throughout the county.

The Ballard County Court Clerk's Office

is also showing its support by promoting Kentucky's AG TAG Program. Residents can purchase or renew their farm tags during their renewal month, helping highlight the importance of agriculture in the

region.

In addition, a new opportunity is now available for drivers who want to support agriculture. For the first time, motorists can choose a Friends of Agriculture license plate for any vehicle when renewing their

regular license plate. Proceeds from these specialty plates help support FFA, 4-H, and Kentucky Proud, programs that play a vital role in developing future agricultural leaders.

Local leaders say the continued

partnership between 4-H, FFA, the County Clerk's Office, and community supporters helps ensure agriculture remains a proud and thriving part of Ballard County's future.

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MARCH MACHINERY CONSIGNMENT AUCTION - MARCH 18TH

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BUY, SELL, AND TRADE DAILY

Investing in grain bins now; choosing the right partner matters more than ever

By Laurna Todd
FQ Writer

As this year's season approaches, farmers should consider more than just price when investing in grain bins. A high-quality grain bin can protect your harvest, maintain its value, and ensure your operation runs smoothly—but selecting the right company and dealer can be just as critical as choosing the bin itself.

"Many dealers have the capability to sell a bin, but the question is—do they want to be there for you after the

sale?" says Jason Workman, owner of Workman Bins Inc. "Too often, dealers are focused on one-and-done sales. Farmers need partners who will help with installation, service, and ongoing support."

With the economy as unpredictable as current crop markets, farmers cannot afford downtime or frequent equipment breakdowns. Knowing your dealer will be there to respond promptly can make all the difference when timing is critical during harvest.

Workman Bins Inc

prides itself on going "beyond the sale." Jason Workman emphasizes long-term relationships, saying, "We want to be part of the farm's generation-to-generation story. I make it a priority to know our customers, their families, and their equipment—so we can provide the right solutions, even if they don't know exactly what they need."

For farmers seeking reliable grain storage, choosing a reputable bin manufacturer is equally important. GSI is a leading name in grain bins, known for durability, innovative designs,

and nationwide support. "When you invest in a GSI bin through a company like Workman Bins, you're not just buying equipment—you're investing in peace of mind and long-term productivity," Workman says.

As harvest season approaches, stop in and talk with Jason or William anytime. Partnering with a trusted dealer who understands your farm, provides ongoing service, and works with leading manufacturers like GSI can ensure your operation runs efficiently today and for years to come.

MUD,
from page A1

berms, or French drains in low-lying areas to help water run off instead of pooling.

Add Gravel, Wood Chips, or Ground Cover – Cover problem spots around gates, feeders, and waterers to give cattle firmer footing and reduce mud.

Manage Pastures Wisely – Avoid overgrazing during wet seasons, allow pastures to recover, and establish low-mud pathways to guide cattle movement.

Mud and Breeding Challenges

Experts say that walking through four to eight inches of mud can reduce a cow's

dry matter intake by as much as 15%. This extra exertion lowers the energy available for breeding, which can slow or even halt reproductive success.

New calves are also at risk. Mud can trap them or expose them to contaminated udders, leading to hygiene problems and potential health issues. Keeping cows and calves in dry, safe areas during the spring thaw helps protect their growth and well-being.

Managing mud may seem like a seasonal nuisance, but proactive planning safeguards your herd—and your bottom line. With careful observation, expert guidance, and practical solutions, spring can be a productive, safe season for every farm.

Spring Into Savings!



2026 Chevrolet Tahoe PREMIER \$81,597 ROCK SALE PRICE	2026 Chevrolet Corvette Z06-2LZ \$145,415 ROCK SALE PRICE	2026 Chevrolet Suburban High Country \$99,869 ROCK SALE PRICE	2026 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 HD-LT \$77,095 ROCK SALE PRICE	2026 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 HD-LTZ \$75,946 ROCK SALE PRICE
2026 Chevrolet Tahoe RST 6.2 V8 \$87,805 ROCK SALE PRICE	2026 Chevrolet Corvette STINGRAY \$95,200 ROCK SALE PRICE	2026 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 HD-LTZ \$83,885 ROCK SALE PRICE	2025 Chevrolet Suburban PREMIER \$77,000 ROCK SALE PRICE	2026 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LT \$61,010 ROCK SALE PRICE
2026 Chevrolet Traverse RS TURBO \$59,370 ROCK SALE PRICE	2026 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 RST \$59,331 ROCK SALE PRICE	2026 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 RST \$48,116 ROCK SALE PRICE	2026 Chevrolet Traverse LT TURBO \$45,790 ROCK SALE PRICE	2025 Chevrolet Blazer EV LT \$45,105 ROCK SALE PRICE
2026 Chevrolet Colorado LT TURBO \$39,650 ROCK SALE PRICE	2026 Chevrolet Equinox RS TURBO \$36,415 ROCK SALE PRICE	2026 Chevrolet Equinox RS TURBO \$35,920 ROCK SALE PRICE	2026 Chevrolet Trailblazer RS TURBO \$35,265 ROCK SALE PRICE	2027 Chevrolet Bolt RS \$32,995 ROCK SALE PRICE



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University of Kentucky KYnsHIP Conference invites students and educators to collaborate

By Christopher Carney

Lexington, Ky.—
On May 1, the University of Kentucky and the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment invite the regional educational community to the Kentucky Network for Supporting High Impact Practices (KYnsHIP) 2026 Conference — designed to foster innovation in teaching and learning.

KYnsHIP's mission is to advance education through collaboration, active learning and innovative teaching methods. Students, faculty, staff and educators in Kentucky will engage in a transformative exchange of ideas and practices to enhance their teaching toolkit.

"To foster more collaboration in higher education, the

KYnsHIP conference aims to equip more educators with the best teaching practices and provide more students with the skills to be workforce-ready at graduation," said Lou Hirsch, assistant professor and one of The Bill Gatton Foundation Early-Career Professors. "We welcome educators and students in Kentucky to join us, sharing their ideas and learning from others."

The conference agenda will include active learning sessions, networking, workshops and collaboration opportunities. The event will feature keynote speaker Leah Carmichael, a leader in education innovation and current director of active learning at the University of Georgia (UGA).

Carmichael is leading the implementation of a

five-year, \$6 million campus-wide initiative to promote and enhance the use of active learning strategies in the undergraduate classroom as part of UGA's Quality Enhancement Plan. Carmichael will speak on the use of active learning strategies in the classroom to promote workforce readiness.

Presentation proposals are being accepted until March 27, inviting participants to share their best practices for active learning and innovative teaching techniques. To prioritize creativity and innovation, presenters are encouraged to avoid screen-based presentations and focus on interactive, hands-on activities that engage learners through multiple senses. Special consideration will be given to proposals that partner with



students in some creative way.

This year, the KYnsHIP Conference will be in the new Martin-Gatton Agricultural Science Building, home of the college's central student center and primary teaching facility.

"By building the next generation of classrooms and teaching laboratories, we are reinforcing our commitment to hands-on learning and instructional innovation," said Carmen Agouridis, senior

associate dean at Martin-Gatton CAFE. "Our college is dedicated to the principle of putting students first."

KYnsHIP is part of the Faculty Initiatives in Education Learning and Discovery (FIELD), one of The Bill Gatton Foundation Grand Challenges. Thanks to the support and generosity of The Bill Gatton Foundation, this May 1 event is free for all participants.

The event begins at 8:30 a.m., concludes at 3 p.m., and will

include a continental breakfast and lunch.

Participants are asked to register for the KYnsHIP Conference by April 1 or until space remains available.

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

Four Pillars of The Bill Gatton Foundation's gift are (1) Scholarships and other initiatives for Student Success, (2) Companion Animal Program, (3) 21st Century Capital Projects and New Initiatives Fund and (4) Faculty Research and Innovation/Research Challenge Trust Fund Program.

ABSOLUTE FARM MACHINERY AUCTION INGRAM FARMS RETIREMENT

Saturday, **March 28th 2026**
10:00 AM
Auction Held -
7696 Bandana Road • Kevil, KY 42053



TRACTORS & POWER UNITS
John Deere 8320R - 2016
PIN: 1RW061230R1G001629 - 558 engine hrs - diesel - fr & rear duals - 420/85 R34 front tires - 480/80 R50 rear tires - 5 rear hydraulic remotes - PTO - 3-point - quick hitch
John Deere 6105E - 2016
PIN: 1P06105ETG001629 - 558 engine hrs - 4WD - diesel - 380/85 R24 front tires - 460/85 R38 rear tires - DEF - rear hydraulics - PTO - 3-point hitch - H260 front-end loader with quick attach
John Deere 5065E - 2013
PIN: 1PYS065EHD012740 - 703 engine hrs - 4WD - 9.5-24 fr tires - 16.9-28 rear tires - 553 front end loader - SN: IP005535AEK040813 - with bucket - SN: BW15543-13828-130114 - 1 rear remote - PTO - 3-point
John Deere 8285R - 2013
PIN: 1RW8285R1D079361 - approx. 2,026 engine hrs - 4WD - diesel - fr & rear duals - fr & rear axle weights - 380/80 R38 front tires - 480/80 R50 rear tires - 4 rear hydraulic remotes - PTO - 3-point - quick hitch
COMBINES
Claas Lexion 740 - 2018
SN: C7800400 - 1,472.36 engine hrs - 977.55 separator hours - auto steer - tracts front tires - 750/65 R26 rear tires - enclosed cab w/buddy seat - Sunny Brook impeller & Dakota kit - precision planting monitor

Lexion 580R - 2010
SN: 57800977 - 1,875 engine hrs - 1,085 separator hours - front duals - CAT powered - 578 Series - enclosed cab w/buddy seat - John Deere auto steer stays with combine - Ag Leader monitor
LEXION - corn, wheat, & soybean concaves
HEADERS
MacDon FD140 Flex Draper - 40 Ft - 2018
SN: 333603-18 - Flex Float Technology (FFT) - set up for Lexion Combines
MacDon FD75 Draper Header - 35 Ft - 2017
SN: 304693 - Flex Float Technology (FFT) - set up for Lexion Combines
CLAAS 918 12-30 Series Corn Header - 2013-14
SN: 91802181 - 12-row - estimated 10K acres or less - set up for Lexion Combines
J&M HT8 Header Wagon - 30' - SN: 7080
JA-MAR MFG Co. Trailer - 36' - ST 205/75 R15 tires
JA-MAR Header Trailer - 41 Ft - 2019
VIN: 4AJHE4136LJ046618 - ST 235/80 R16 tires
JOHN DEERE PRECISIONS
John Deere StarFire 3000 Antenna with SF1 Activation
John Deere StarFire 3000 Antenna with RTK Activation

(3) John Deere 2630 GreenStar Monitors
John Deere StarFire 6000 Watt Receiver operates with WAAS
MACK SEMI DAY CABS
Mack Pinnacle Day Cab - 2025
VIN: 1M1PN4G9Y5M016163 - 4,659 miles - 11R22.5 front and rear - tires - MP8 engine / DEF - Air Ride
Mack Day Cab - CXN613 - 2007
VIN: 1M1AK06YX7N015923 - 583,429 miles (80,000 rebuilt engine in 2016) - 11R/22.5 front tires - 295/75 R22.5 rear tires (tires on trucks 2 yrs or less) - Air Ride
Mack Day Cab - CXN613 - 2005
VIN: 1M1AK06Y25N005917 - 698,892 miles - Super 10 speed - Firestone 11R 22.5 front tires - 295/75 R22.5 rear tires - 295/75 R22.5 w/Wet Kit - Air Ride
TRUCKS
Dodge Ram 2500 - 6.4 Liter HEMI - 2018
VIN: 3C6UR5CJ6JG386257 - 112,933 miles - Heavy Duty - White - 4WD - leather interior - auto windows - factory Gooseneck - running boards - backup camera
1970 Chevrolet 350 Truck
56,887 Miles; V8 engine VIN; CE14DJ136778
GRAIN TRAILERS & SEMI TRAILERS
Timpte Super Hopper Trailer 40 Ft - 2023
VIN: 1TDH40026PB176476 - 11R 24.5 Double Coin rear tires - Thunder tarp system - Air Ride

Timpte Super Hopper Trailer 40 Ft - 2018
VIN: 1TDH40022JB158077 - Bridgestone 295/75R 22.5 rear tires - Air Ride
Brenner Tank Semi Trailer 40 Ft - 2005
VIN: 10BGB42X5F0B6164 - 4,000 gallon - 40 Ft - 11R 24.5 new rear tires
East Dump Trailer - 39 Ft - 1988
VIN: 1E1F9V288JRB07911 - 11R 22.5 rear tires - with roll tarp - bed liner
Dorsey Drop Deck Trailer - 40 Ft - DLBT-50 - 1978
VIN: TL134854 - H-M435 - Self Contained Hydraulic Ramps - 3 axles - 10.00-15 rear tires
Wilson Sprayer Trailer - 26 Ft - 1973
VIN: 4X3397 - 11,22.5 rear tires - 3,200 gallon tank with 40 gallon mix tank w/Honda GX390 motor w/pump
16' Trailer
LT235/80R16 - like new tires - wooden deck - 2.5/16" ball
PLANTING & SEEDING EQUIPMENT
Kinze 3600 Planter - 2015
No till - corn & bean meters, hydraulic or chain drive, can be run w/John Deere 2630 or Case IH Pro 700 - individual row swath control (one owner)
Friesen 220 Bulk Seed Tender
SN: 39248 - 220 bushel capacity - 2 hoppers - trailer SN: 39944 - w/Honda GX160 motor

TILLAGE & FIELD EQUIPMENT
Case IH 330 Turbo Tiller - 34'
SN: JFH0047891 - 12.5L-5FI tires
Case IH 340 Disk - 2014
SN: YED077704 - 32" disk, 9" spacing, approx. 21" blades
Sunflower 5034-35 Field Cultivator - 35'
VIN: 05034L20010161 - 11L-15 tires - hydraulic wing fold - 5 bar spike tooth harrow
Sunflower 7252-37 Single Rolling Basket
SN: 07252120030016 - 9.5L-15 tires - hydraulics - 37 ft - 5 sections
DMI 3200 II Row Anhydrous Applicator
3-PT Glencoe PD10 Ditcher
Sunflower - 22' Disc - 9" Spacing, 21" Blades
(2) 3 Point Hitch 14-Shank Chisel
TYE 3-Point Hitch Six-Shank Ripper
5' Rotary Cutter - 3-PTH, PTO
Rhino F4-15 Phantom Rotary Cutter -
SN: 10025 - 540 PTO
Rhino 1540 10' Blade -
SN: 19925 - hydraulic hookups, 6 way swivel blade
GRAIN HANDLING & SUPPORT EQUIPMENT
Brandt 1320XL Grain Cart - With Scales - 2024
SN: 5524 (ZZA) - IF1 250/SOR32 CPO tires - PTO, hydraulic hookups - w/tarp (used for crop 24 & 25) - 1,300 bushel - backup camera - one owner

Westfield WR 100-31 Grain Auger
SN: 263538 - 185 65 R15 tires - PTO - hydraulic lift
Hutchinson/Mayrath/Terra Tract - Grain Auger
62 Ft - SN: 918164; 72 Ft - SN: 958301 - PTO - hydraulic lift - swing away - low profile
3,200 Gallon Black Water Tank
27,500-Watt PTO Generator
John Deere Forks - SN: 1XFAP12GLC0003668
ATVs & RECREATIONAL
Honda Rubicon Four Wheeler - 2007
- 4,305 miles - 720.2 hours - auto - electric shifter - red
Honda Rubicon Four Wheeler -
Forest Green - needs battery - needs new starter
Honda Recon Four Wheeler - Forest Green
CONSTRUCTION & ATTACHMENTS
John Deere 850C Series 1
Crawler Dozer - 1994
PIN: T0850CX813517 - Straight Blade w/Tilt
Reynolds 14C Dirt Pan - SN: 263-3 - 10-foot wide
Bulldozer Root Rake Attachment
ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT PARTS
Lexion Combine, Kinze Planter, & MacDon Parts
MISC. TOOLS & SHOP ITEMS TO BE SOLD IN PERSON ONLY - NOT ONLINE.

TERMS & CONDITIONS - BUYER'S PREMIUM: A 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to all final bids and included in the total purchase price. Online purchases are subject to an 11% Buyer's Premium. **CONDITION OF SALE:** All property is sold AS IS, WHERE IS, with ALL SALES FINAL. Property is available for public inspection, and bidders are solely responsible for determining condition, age, authenticity, and value. Descriptions are provided for convenience only and are not guaranteed. Odometer and hour meter readings reflect inspection-day readings and are not warranted. No warranties, express or implied, including merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose, are made. Buyer is the sole judge of value. **PAYMENT TERMS:** Payment is due day of sale by cash, cashier's check, personal check, or corporate check. Wire transfers must be received within 48 hours; buyer is responsible for a \$25 wire fee. No items will be released until payment is made in full. Wire instructions and invoices will be emailed following the auction. A bank letter of credit is required for unknown buyers. Announcements made at the auction podium take precedence over all printed or prior statements

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2020 PETERBILT 579, 455 HP/12 speed automated transmission, nice truck, runs excellent, low miles, air seat, power windows, power mirrors, heated mirrors, tilt/tele, differential lock, dump valve, sliding 5th wheel. Stk. #20MX348579DC **\$28,500**



2021 INTERNATIONAL LT, X15 Cummins engine/12 speed, automated transmission, super ice truck, runs and drives excellent, fleet maintained, air seat, smart wheel, power windows, power/heated mirrors. Stk. #21X15443LTDC **\$26,000**



2018 PETERBILT 579, Good truck, runs and drives excellent, fleet maintained, air seat, very nice truck, power windows, power/heated mirrors, differential lock, dump valve, A/S 5th, cruise, tilt/tele, 455 HP. Stk. #18MX590579DC **\$33,000**



2015 KENWORTH T680, Very nice truck, fleet maintained, no rust/souther run truck, air seat, air brakes, tilt/tele, power windows, power/heated mirrors, dump valve, differential lock, sliding 5th wheel, 455 HP. Stk. #15MX580T680DC **\$18,500**



2020 KENWORTH T680, Good truck, fleet maintained, runs great, clean, air seat, air brakes, tilt/tele, power windows, power/heated mirrors, super nice truck, 455 HP, PACCAR engine. Stk. #20MX529T680DC **\$25,000**



2021 INTERNATIONAL RH, Very nice truck, fleet maintained, excellent shape, runs and drives perfect, smart steering wheel, power windows, power/heated mirrors, dump valve, differential lock, air seat, dual 60 gallon fuel tanks Stk. #21GA263RHTADC **\$20,000**



2018 INTERNATIONAL RH, Good truck, runs excellent, good miles, fleet maintained, power windows, power door locks, smart wheel, cruise A/S 5th, dump valve, tilt/tele, 528,270 miles. Stk. #18YEL528PRDC **\$12,000**



2018 WESTERN STAR 4700, Very nice truck, runs excellent, air seat, air brakes, differential lock, dump valve, sliding 5th wheel, heated mirror, 450 HP, DD13 engine model, Detroit engine. Stk. #18DET560WSDC **\$28,000**



2020 FREIGHTLINER CASCADIA 116, Very nice truck, runs excellent, clean, air seat, air brakes, fleet maintained, differential lock, dump valve, power windows, power mirrors, A/S 5th, 410 HP, Detroit engine.. Stk. #20DET477CASDC **\$25,000**



2020 FREIGHTLINER CASCADIA 116, Very nice truck, runs excellent, clean, air seat, air brakes, fleet maintained, differential lock, dump valve, power windows, power mirrors, A/S 5th, 455 HP! Stk. #20DET665CASDC **\$22,000**



2026 WITZCO CHALLENGER, New 52 ton low boy trailer, 23 ft well, chain tie downs, D-Rings, Honda pony engine, chain/binder storage, ground bearing detach, factory warranty, pad food on lift cylinder. Stk. #26WIT285R652 **\$50,000**



2025 ATRO 34 FT TANDEM AXLE, High lift gate, built with AR hard ox steel, 13,337 empty weight, external cylinder/no doghouse for easier dumping capabilities, front ladder, LED lights, 12% FET to be paid with purchase. Stk. #25ATRO400DUMP **\$33,000**



2020 TIMPTE 40 FT X 96 IN, Nice hopper trailer, AG hoppers, good tires, roll tarp, dump valve, 72 inch sides, 40 ft long, 86 inch wide, 2 hoppers, manual hopper operator type, two speed landing gear, front and rear ladders. Stk. #20TIM40HOPPER **\$32,000**



2017 TRAILSTAR 39 FT TANDEM AXLE, Good trailer, dumps, not rusty, dump valve, air ride, 2 way gate, 39 ft end dump, side ladder, two speed landing gear. Stk. #17TSTAR597DUMP **\$24,000**



2012 TIMPTE 42 FT, Good trailer, roll tarp, good doors, vibrators, aluminum, two hoppers, stander hopper type, manual operator, knock rails, two speed landing gear, front and rear ladders. Stk. #12TIM390HOPPER **\$18,500**



2007 TRAIL KING 49 FT, Appears to be a nice trailer, electric tarp, belt appears good, no title/bill of sale only, aluminum, 22.5 tires, aluminum wheels, tri rear axles, fixed axle type. Stk. #07TK187BELT **\$22,000**



1999 TRAILBOSS 40 FT X 102 IN 35 TON, Nice trailer, not rusty/southern used, good tires, excellent shape for age, trailer has not been used much, 26 ft well length. Stk. #99TB460LOW **\$15,000**



2001 TRAVIS 37 FT TANDEM AXLE, Nice trailer, good shape, roll tarp, air gate, aluminum, manual tarp, two speed landing gear. Stk. #01TRAV705DUMP **\$15,000**



2013 CEI PACER, Nice trailer, good tires, 40 ft, auger fighting has a broken spot and needs valve for hydraulics, pneumatic, aluminum air ride suspension, fixed tandem rear axle. Stk. #13PACEFEED **\$20,000**



2002 WADE 48 FT X 96 IN IN STEEL FLATBED TRAILER, Good trailer, forklift package, side winches. Stk. #02WADE148FLAT **\$5,500**



2017 FREIGHTLINER BUSINESS CLASS M2 106, Nice truck, runs excellent, well maintained, 24 ft flat bed with fork-lift package, air seat, air brakes, differential lock, dump valve, 330 HP, Cummins engine. Stk. #17M2305TAFLAT **\$30,000**



2016 INTERNATIONAL DURASTAR 4300, Good truck, runs excellent, 10 ft ledwell bed, Allison automatic transmission, tarper, cruise, 260 HP, diesel, single exhaust, 48,684 miles. Stk. #16430048SADUMP **\$30,000**



2019 KENWORTH T680, Nice clean truck, well maintained, nice hard steel, 14 ft bed, air gate, electric tarp, air seat, power windows, power/heated mirrors, differential lock, dump valve, 455 HP. Stk. #19MX745T680TADUMP **\$55,000**



2006 STERLING L9500, Nice truck, runs excellent, ox bed, full locking rears, double frame, air gate, tarp, Mercedes engine, 441,515 miles, 450 HP. Stk. #06MBE441STRLTADUMP **\$33,000**



2015 RAM 5500 HD, Nice truck, well maintained, summit 11 ft body, rolling drawer tool boxes, lots of storage, air compressor with hose reel and pressure gauge, Summit liberator 4000 lbs crane with remote! Stk. #15RAM297SER **\$33,000**



2015 FREIGHTLINER CORONDAO 122 SD, Nice truck, runs excellent, wet kit, dual exhaust, full locking rears, dump valve, sliding 5th, power windows, power/heated mirrors, super nice truck, southern ran, not rusty. Stk. #15DET813FLATCOR **\$28,000**



2008 PETERBILT 365, Nice truck, well maintained, runs excellent, dump valve, differential lock, sliding 5th, power right window, power/heated mirrors, tilt/tele, 445 HP, Caterpillar engine. Stk. #08C13394FLAT365 **\$24,000**



2013 PETERBILT 388, Good truck, runs great, full gauge package, full locking rears, dual exhaust, dual breathers, dual air ride seats, tilt/tele, power windows, power/heated mirrors, 490 HP, PACCAR engine, 13 speeds. Stk. #13MX589FLAT388 **\$45,000**



2015 KENWORTH T660, Super nice truck, runs and drives excellent, VIT interior, dual air ride seats, power windows, tilt/tele, dump valve, differential lock, sliding 5th wheel, *deleted emissions, PACCAR engine, 485 HP.. Stk. #15MX113FLAT6 **\$20,000**



2005 PETERBILT 379, Nice truck, runs excellent, low miles, very clean truck, dual exhaust, dual breathers, differential lock, dump valve, sliding 5th, wheel, air seats, full gauge package, 450 HP, Caterpillar engine. Stk. #05C13615379 **\$35,000**



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Student-created book highlight of Spring All in for Ag Education Week



“Millie’s Farm Day,” a book written and illustrated by two Kentucky students, is the center of Kentucky’s All in for Agriculture Education Week set for March 16-20. Below: Eighth-grader Ayla Tolentino, left, wrote the book based on the experiences she had at a friend’s farm. High school junior Blakely Beth Callahan, right, used her imagination and skill to bring Tolentino’s words to life in pictures.

FRANKFORT, Ky. – A book written and illustrated by two Kentucky students is at the center of this Spring’s All in for Agriculture Education Week.

“Millie’s Farm Day,” written by eighth-grader Ayla Tolentino and illustrated by 11th-grader Blakely Beth Callahan, follows the day in a life of farmer, Kenzie, as seen through the eyes of a dairy cow named Millie.

“It’s amazing how creative our young people can be,” Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner

Jonathan Shell said. “All in for Agriculture Education Week is designed to get agriculture in the classroom. This book does that in a fun, colorful way for our youngest future farmers.”

The book contest, sponsored by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA), the Dairy Alliance, and Farm Credit Mid-America, asked Kentucky students to craft a story centered around dairy farmers caring for their cows.

“As fewer families have direct ties to farming, agricultural literacy has never been more critical,” said Farrah Newberry, Chief Executive Officer at The Dairy Alliance.

“By partnering with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to create and distribute ‘Millie’s Farm Day’ to students across Kentucky, we are accurately highlighting modern dairy farming and helping bridge that gap. All In for Ag Education Week is about inspiring curiosity, building understanding, and ensuring the next generation sees the innovation and sustainability driving today’s dairy farms.”

“We know the future of our industry is in the hands of this next generation and proudly partner with KDA to enhance ag education in our elementary schools statewide,” said Mark Barker, senior vice president of agricultural lending at Farm Credit Mid-America. “Supporting programs like All in for Ag that allow students to learn about agriculture in our community helps us achieve our mission of securing the future of rural communities and agriculture.”

The book author, a self-proclaimed “ag nerd” and vice president of her middle school’s FFA chapter, was excited to bring a little bit of agriculture into the classroom.

“I was inspired by my friend Kenzie,

who cares for her own cattle,” said Tolentino, who attends Bondurant Middle School in Franklin County. “I’ve learned a lot from occasionally helping her over the last few years.”

Written with younger elementary students in mind, the student-drawn illustrations complete the story through pictures.

“Being the illustrator for ‘Millie’s Farm Day’ is an honor I hold so close to my heart,” said Callahan, who attends South Laurel High School. “I’m incredibly grateful for the chance to bring this story to life through art and to help share the joy and wonder of farm life with young readers. Every page is a reminder of how thankful I am for this opportunity.”

The book will be a highlight during the All in For Agriculture Education Week March 16-20.

All in for Agriculture Education Week began in 2025 when Commissioner Shell joined forces with Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman and Commissioner of Education Robbie Fletcher to bring agriculture into classrooms across the Commonwealth. 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.

The book contest was developed to get students even more involved. It will be distributed to elementary schools across the state along with other ag education material. Once distributed, the book will become a permanent resident in the school library.

The student author and student illustrator

see BOOK, page A7

ONLINE AUCTION

ENDS WEDNESDAY MARCH 25TH @ 7 PM (EST)

JASPER, INDIANA

To view and bid go to www.Dimmettauctionservice.com and click on **HiBid Online Auctions**

LOCATION: DAS will be having an Online auction at 583 S Old Huntingburg Rd Jasper, IN 47546. To view and bid go to dasonlineauctions.hibid.com.

PREVIEW: You can preview items on Sunday, March 22nd from 2-4^{PM} EST located at 583 S Old Huntingburg Rd Jasper, IN 47546. To view and bid go to dasonlineauctions.hibid.com.







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VINTAGE LIVESTOCK CHUTE & MORE




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AUCTION PICKUP: Will be Thursday, March 26th from 11^{AM} to 5^{PM} EST at 583 S Old Huntingburg Rd Jasper, IN 47546.

TERMS: Pick up time is Thursday, March 26th from 1^{PM} to 5^{PM} EST at 583 S Old Huntingburg Rd Jasper, IN 47645. Cash, check, and or credit card (3% charge) when you pick up your items. A 10% buyers premium will be charged for this consignment online auction. Any announcements made day of auction shall take precedence over any verbal or printed material.

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USDA line speeds program another step closer to widespread adoption, boosting pork processing capacity

WASHINGTON, D.C., — The National Pork Producers Council applauds the U.S. Department of Agriculture's proposed rule to update the New Swine Inspection System's line speed regulations to increase efficiency at pork processing plants.

The proposal aims to remove maximum line speed limits for establishments operating under NSIS. Participating establishments will be allowed to set their own line speeds based on their demonstrated ability to maintain process controls and food safety, rather than adhering to a strict maximum speed limit.

"Thank you, Secretary Rollins and the Food Safety and Inspection Service, for taking steps to unleash the potential to process pork more efficiently while also protecting food and worker safety," said NPPC President Duane Stateler, a pork producer from McComb, Ohio.

"Greater efficiency of increased line speeds provides financial security and more stability for

pork producers. Without the NSIS program, some pork producers could have incurred an additional loss of nearly \$10 a head."

Since 2019, NPPC has advocated for increased line speeds.

In November 2021, FSIS permitted increased line speeds at six pork packing plants while simultaneously gathering data to evaluate potential worker impacts.

In November 2023, FSIS extended the trials for an additional 90 days. In February 2024, FSIS again extended the trials through Jan. 15, 2025.

In April 2024, USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety Sandra Eskin discussed the pilot program with producers at NPPC's legislative action conference.

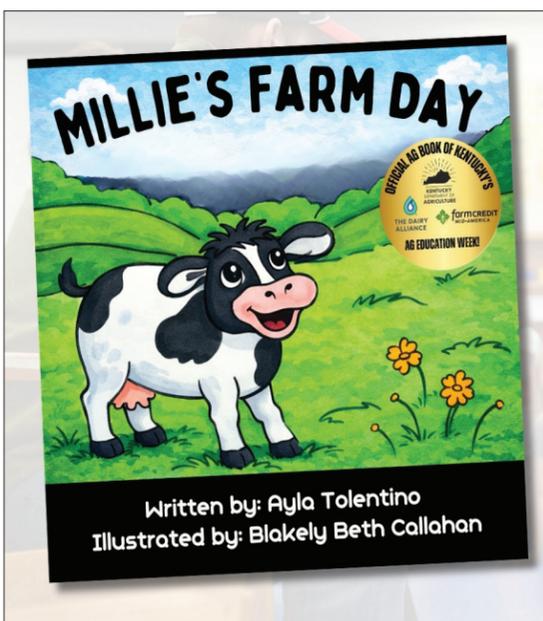
In June 2024, U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Ranking Member John Boozman (R-AR) introduced his Farm Bill framework, making permanent the program, among several NPPC

priorities.

In January 2025, FSIS released the results of a months-long study at six plants, concluding that "line speeds were not determined to be the leading factor in worker musculoskeletal disorder (MSD) risk at these plants."

In March 2025, USDA announced plans to make permanent the NSIS increased line speed program.

NPPC will continue to work with FSIS to ensure greater efficiency and food safety within pork processing plants.



BOOK,
from page A6

will tour during the ag education week making stops at schools to read the book and conduct mini art lessons with students.

In addition to the book tour, students can participate in a virtual tour on

Tuesday, March 17 led by a dairy farmer. Using the format of the book the farm will take students on a virtual tour of the farm and then end with a question and answer session.

To learn more about All in For Ag Education, visit kyagr.com/marketing/ag-education-week.html.

ONLINE AUCTION

ENDS MONDAY, MARCH 30TH @ 6 PM (CST)

EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

To view and bid go to www.Dimmettauctionservice.com and click on **HiBid Online Auctions**"

LOCATION: DAS will be having an Online Auction at 5025 W Franklin Rd Evansville, IN 47712. To view and bid go to dasonlineauctions.hibid.com.

PREVIEW: You can preview items on Sunday, March 29th from 1-3^{PM} CST located at 5025 W Franklin Rd Evansville, IN 47712. To view and bid go to dasonlineauctions.hibid.com.

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AUCTION PICKUP: Will be Tuesday, March 31st from 10^{AM} to 5^{PM} CST at 5025 W Franklin Rd Evansville, IN 47712.

TERMS: Pick up time is Tuesday, March 31st from 10^{AM} to 5^{PM} CST at 5025 W Franklin Rd Evansville, IN 47712. Cash, check, and or credit card (3% charge) when you pick up your items. A 10% buyers premium will be charged for this online auction. Any announcements made day of auction shall take precedence over any verbal or printed material.

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**2020 JOHN DEERE
S780 \$210,000**

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**2019 JOHN DEERE
S790 \$200,000**

4WD, 2119/1693 HRS, TRACKS, 750/65R26 REAR TIRES, POWERCAST TAILBOARD, CHOPPER, CONTOUR MASTER, POWER BIN EXTENSIONS, S/N 1H0S790SLKT805075



**2019 JOHN DEERE
R4038 \$185,000**

2173 HRS, 90/100' BOOMS, ROW SENSE, 15" NOZZLE SPACING, FENCE ROW NOZZLES, SS EDUCTOR, FRONT FILL, 1000 GAL TANK, CROP SHIELDS, 380/90R46 TIRES, EXACTAPPLY NOZZLE CONTROL



**2020 JOHN DEERE 6155R
\$155,000**

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



**2012 JOHN DEERE
7215R \$92,500**

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



**2024 SHELBOURNE
REYNOLDS XCS36
\$87,500**

2024 SHELBOURNE REYNOLDS XCS36, USED ONE YEAR, 1400 ACRES, COMPATIBLE W/ JD S - SERIES OR X9 FEEDER HOUSE, S/N XCS36245103



**2009 JOHN DEERE 8330
\$80,000**

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



**2004 JOHN DEERE 8120
\$60,000**

MFWD, 8351 HRS, 420/85R30 FRONT TIRES, 520/85R42 REAR DUALS, 4 SCV, 1000 PTO, QUICK HITCH, POWERSHIFT TRANSMISSION, S/N RW8120P027273



**2018 JOHN DEERE 712C
\$51,500**

2018 JOHN DEERE 712C CORN HEAD, KNIFE ROLLS, HYD DECK PLATES, HEADER HEIGHT SENSORS, ROW SENSE, S/N 1H00712CHJX805004



**1997 JOHN DEERE 7810
\$50,000**

MFWD, 5200 HRS APPROX (NOTHING SHOWS ON DASH WHEN STARTED), 18.4-42 DUALS, 3 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, 16 SPEED POWER QUAD, S/N RW7810H005366



**2014 JOHN DEERE
5075E \$49,500**

MFWD, C/H/A, 674 HRS, JD H240 LOADER W/ BUCKET, 9.5-24 FRONT TIRES, 16.9-28 REAR TIRES, 2 SCV, 540 PTO, 12 SPEED, LHR, S/N 1LV5075EPEY245576



**1989 JOHN DEERE 4955
\$46,500**

MFWD, 5355 HRS, 380/85R34 FRONT TIRES, 520/85R42 REAR DUALS, 3 SCV, 1000 PTO, 15 SPEED POWERSHIFT, S/N RW4955P002085

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**2014 JOHN DEERE
6115D \$42,500**

2014 JOHN DEERE 6115D TRACTOR, MFWD, C/H/A, 2787 HRS, 13.6-24 FRONT TIRES, 18.4-34 REAR TIRES, 3 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, 9 SPEED, LHR, S/N 1P06115DPEM052326



**JOHN DEERE 2210
\$34,500**

JOHN DEERE 2210 FIELD CULTIVATOR, 3 SECTION FLEXIBLE, FLOATING HITCH, 38' 6", 3 BAR COIL TINE HARROW, S/N 1N02210XEE0760084



**2008 CASE IH 8010
\$32,500**

2008 CASE IH 8010 COMBINE, 4WD, 3175/2296 HRS, 520/85R42 DUALS, 540/65R30 REAR TIRES, LATERAL TILT, CHOPPER W/ SPREADER, S/N HAJ202217



**2020 JOHN DEERE 6155R
\$155,000**

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



**J&M 1151
\$30,000**

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



**2015 JOHN DEERE
640FD \$27,500**

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



**1982 JOHN DEERE 4440
\$26,500**

2WD, C/H/A, 6268 HRS, 11.00-16 FRONT TIRES, 18.4-38 REAR DUALS, 2 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, 16 SPEED QUAD RANGE, S/N 4440H067573RW



**MCFARLANE
HDL1150-16 \$25,000**

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



**2014 KUHN KRAUSE
4400-42 \$24,500**

2014 KUHN KRAUSE 4400-42D CULTIPACKER, 42', S/N 4400-42D-2693



**2013 CLAAS 12-30
\$15,000**

2013 CLAAS 918 CORN HEAD, 12 ROW, 30" SPACING, KNIFE ROLLS, ROW SENSE, S/N 91802024



**2014 E-Z TRAIL 510
\$12,500**

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



**J I CASE 1370
\$7,500**

2WD, CAB, 3459 HRS SHOWING, 11.00-16 FRONT TIRES, 20.8-38 REAR TIRES, 2 SCV, 1000 PTO, S/N 8805843

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Brent Schmidgall - Auctioneer

Op-ed: Kentucky Farmers can power aviation's future

Posted By:
Sawyer Coffey

The following is an op-ed piece authored by Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell and Kentucky Chamber President and CEO Ashli Watts

For generations, Kentucky has stood at the crossroads of American agriculture and transportation, growing the nation's food and moving it around the world. From the crops grown across our rural communities to the cargo that lifts off from our airports each day, those industries power our economy and shape our future.

Now, there is an opportunity to bring them together. If we move boldly, we can turn alternative aviation fuel into a once-in-a-generation economic development opportunity for our farmers, our communities, and our workforce.

Here is the reality: Airlines are searching for reliable, scalable domestic fuel sources, and Kentucky is uniquely positioned to meet that demand. We grow the feedstocks,



Kentucky Chamber President and CEO Ashli Watts



Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell

We have the infrastructure. We have the workforce. And we have the geographic advantage of being within a day's drive of two-thirds of the U.S. population.

But we're not the only state looking to garner investments from the alternative aviation fuels industry. Other states are moving aggressively with incentives, partnerships, and clear strategies. If Kentucky hesitates, we risk losing projects to states that recognize the urgency of this moment.

Kentucky should seize this opportunity.

We've seen this kind of opportunity before. Targeted incentives helped establish Kentucky's biodiesel and ethanol industries. Those efforts created new buyers for farmers and brought processing facilities and jobs to communities across the Commonwealth. Alternative aviation fuel builds on that foundation. It connects industries we already have in a way that strengthens both.

For farmers, that means more buyers

and more stability through a new domestic market for crops we are already growing. It also keeps more of the value from Kentucky crops here at home. Corn and soybeans can serve as feedstock, but the opportunity goes further. Materials that currently have limited value — crop residues, vegetable oils, and other agricultural byproducts — can generate additional revenue from every acre.

But it's not all farm gate impact. When we talk about alternative

aviation fuel, we are talking about new crushing facilities, new biorefineries, and new logistics networks. These are not temporary projects. These are long-term anchors for regional economies.

Kentucky's manufacturing base stands to benefit as well. From steel and fabrication to engineering and maintenance, alternative aviation fuel development strengthens the entire supply chain. A single alternative aviation fuel facility can create hundreds of construction jobs,

dozens of permanent high-wage positions, and other lasting ripple effects.

House Bill 545 is structured to encourage that kind of investment. The bill would incentivize both fuel production and feedstock supply by offering enhanced tax credits for Kentucky-grown feedstocks and in-state refineries.

This is not about choosing between the agricultural and energy industries. Kentucky's strength has always been our ability to produce both. Alternative aviation fuel is simply the next chapter in that story, building on our heritage while preparing us for the future.

We want to thank Speaker Pro Tempore David Meade for his leadership on this issue to strengthen our farms and producers, support manufacturing growth, and expand Kentucky's supply chain role.

Kentucky agriculture has powered America before. With the right vision and commitment, we can do it again — this time by fueling the future of flight.

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Tennessee farmer wins national conservation legacy award

Tennessee soybean grower Alex Forsbach says that land stewardship and conservation practices are making a positive difference in his operation. He's witnessed first-hand a significant increase in organic matter alone over the last 10 years and attributes that directly to his use of no-till and cover crops.

The American Soybean Association presented Forsbach with the 2026 National Conservation Legacy Award during the annual ASA Awards Celebration at Commodity Classic in San Antonio.

"Conservation has a significant role in



creating and carrying out my farming legacy," Forsbach says. "My children and farm visitors see conservation in action setting a foundation for the future. I love talking to people who are not directly involved

in agriculture because you get the best questions on why we do things a certain way. It is a way for me to challenge conventional thinking."

While the future is filled with unknowns,

Forsbach knows conservation helps him think long-term.

The Conservation Legacy Award is a national program designed to recognize the outstanding environmental achievements of

soybean farmers, which help produce more sustainable U.S. soybeans.

A national selection committee, composed of soybean farmers, conservationists, agronomists and natural resource professionals, evaluated nominees based on their on-farm legacy of conservation practices and outreach efforts in their local community. The program is sponsored by ASA, BASF, Bayer, Nutrien, the United Soybean Board/Soy Checkoff and Valent USA.

The following individuals received regional Conservation Legacy Awards

during ASA's awards program. Click below to read more on each of the regional winners' operations:

Lewis Unruh, Peabody, Kansas (Midwest)

Jon and Cathy Nelson, Lake Preston, South Dakota (Upper Midwest)

James Baxter, Georgetown, Delaware (Northeast)

Alex Forsbach, Savannah, Tennessee (South)

ASA will be accepting applications for the 2027 Conservation Legacy Awards this summer. For more information on this program visit soygrowers.com

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UK Pre-Vet Experience Day successfully hosts high school students interested in veterinary medicine

By Holly Wiemers
holly.wiemers@uky.edu

Lexington, Ky.— This year, Valentine's Day at the University of Kentucky was for veterinarians, or at least, future veterinarians.

UK's Pre-Veterinary Experience Day returned for a third year Feb. 14 with an innovative and interactive event designed to guide, inform and inspire the next generation of veterinarians and help them explore the multifaceted world of veterinary medicine. While Pre-Veterinary Experience Day has become an annual event, this year was the first time it catered to high school students instead of college students.

The day was organized by the UK Pre-Veterinary Mentoring Program within the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, in collaboration with the Kentucky Horse Council. The event also supported high school students through a three-year, \$250,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and



Agriculture.

The daylong event drew 80 students and 85 parent participants. Of those students, 75 were from Kentucky, while the remaining attendees hailed from other states, including New York, Ohio and West Virginia. Most attendees were sophomores or juniors, but freshmen and seniors were also well represented.

"We were thrilled for the opportunity to expand UK's Pre-Vet Experience Day, sharing enthusiasm, resources, career exploration and networking opportunities within this field," said Amber McNamara, faculty

director of the Pre-Veterinary Mentoring Program and one of the event co-organizers. "Recognizing that veterinary success relies on a strong support system, the event intentionally engaged both students and parents, providing tools and information to help families make the best-informed decisions."

Pre-Vet Experience Day: At a glance

The day was structured into two tracks, one specific to students and another to parents. Sessions were led by a mix of faculty and staff, students currently in veterinary

school and undergraduate students on a pre-veterinary track at UK. There were shared informational sessions for students and parents as well as interactive breakout sessions specifically for students in the afternoon.

For Malena Hughes, a UK pre-vet student, Martin-Gatton CAFE Student Ambassador, Pre-Vet Club and Block and Bridle president and afternoon session leader, the event provided a full-circle moment.

"I attended the event in one of its very first iterations and was able to network with professionals, gain valuable application tips and tour local veterinary facilities in the area. Having previously been a participant, I was so excited to help create this opportunity for an even younger generation of students," Hughes said. "I come from a rural background, so I understand how access to veterinarians can be limited, not only for clients, but also for young aspiring students. I loved that Pre-Vet Experience Day allowed students from

backgrounds like mine to be exposed to aspects of veterinary medicine they may have never seen as well as resources to help them on their journey."

Hughes also shared what it meant to help other students.

"I was able to lead one of the student activity rotations and chose to focus my session on parasitology by having students look at various parasites through a microscope and engage in discussion questions to teach them about each species," Hughes said. "One of my favorite experiences throughout my time at UK has been working in an equine parasitology lab on an independent research project, so being able to teach students about something that means so much to me was incredibly fulfilling."

Morning sessions were delivered to students and parents together, presenting topics which included what veterinary medicine is and isn't; a veterinary career overview; pathways to veterinary medicine with considerations for students in high school; and a panel about veterinary journeys and

insights given by current veterinary students and recent graduates.

"Career possibilities within veterinary medicine are diverse, and rewarding pathways can look different for each student," McNamara said. "At the same time, the profession has challenges that many students, and parents, may not anticipate, including student debt, workforce shortages and mental health concerns. Balancing enthusiasm with an awareness of these realities, along with access to meaningful resources and mentorship, can help students identify the path that aligns best with their strengths and goals."

Afternoon breakout sessions for students included an equine internal medicine review and introduction to equine dentistry; comparative skeletal anatomy of companion animal forelimbs; microscopic review of veterinary parasites of

see PRE-VET, page A13

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PRE-VET,
from page A12

clinical importance; and animal tissues, specimens and video of necropsies conducted at the UK Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

For parents, afternoon sessions included presentations about veterinary medicine challenges and resources, healthy support for an aspiring pre-vet student and a panel from UK pre-vet students about what they wish their family knew about their journey.

“Dr. McNamara asked us some great questions about our insight on the pre-vet journey and then opened the panel to questions from the parents,” said Landon Porter, a UK pre-vet student and panelist. “The parents were engaged and asked us some great questions that covered a variety of topics from life as a student to time management skills to the best way to get veterinary experience in college.”

Porter also shared some words of wisdom with the students.

“As a junior pre-vet student, I shared my experiences of growing up on a farm, working in a rural mixed practice veterinary clinic and as

a student worker at UK’s sheep unit,” Porter said. “I tried to emphasize hands-on experience, the importance of time management for studying at school and, most importantly, highlighted that sense of community makes a big difference academically and professionally.”

It was great to have more of these personal conversations to share why I think UK has done an excellent job preparing me for veterinary school.”

Katie Merrel, a pre-veterinary academic coordinator at Martin-Gatton CAFE and one of the event co-organizers, emphasized the importance of students and parents learning together.

“Pre-Vet Experience Day was designed to give students meaningful, hands-on exposure to veterinary medicine while also equipping parents with a clearer understanding of the academic pathway and commitment required,” Merrell said. “It was incredibly rewarding to see families learning alongside their students and supporting their goals from the very beginning.”

Save the date
UK’s Pre-Vet Experience Day is held annually on the Saturday before

Presidents’ Day and will rotate years between a program designed for college and high school-aged students.

Next year’s event on Feb. 13, 2027 will be designed for college-aged students. Event partners and collaborators include the Pre-Veterinary Mentoring Program, UK Department of Animal and Food Sciences, UK Ag Equine Programs and the Kentucky Horse Council. Sponsorship and collaboration opportunities are available.

“Many thanks to all of our presenters, session leaders, panelists and volunteers who made this day rewarding and meaningful for veterinary hopefuls,” McNamara added.

Visit Pre-Vet Experience Day at Martin-Gatton CAFE to learn more.

This material is based upon work that is supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under award number 2025-70024-45089. Any opinions, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Department of Agriculture.

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ASA honors Monte Peterson (ND) with Distinguished Leadership Award

ASA congratulates Monte Peterson, winner of the 2026 ASA Distinguished Leadership Award. Pictured: Peterson speaking at a 2019 U.S. Soybean Export Council meeting with EU consumers.

The American Soybean Association (ASA) recognized North Dakota farmer Monte Peterson with its Distinguished Leadership Award during the 2026 ASA Awards Celebration at the Commodity Classic trade show in

San Antonio.

The ASA Distinguished Leadership Award recognizes a soybean grower or association staff leader who has shown a high level of dedication and successfully led others to meet goals and achieve successes to benefit soybean farmers.

Monte has been an advocate for soybean farmers since 2006, when he joined the North Dakota Soybean Council board. He also served on the

American Soybean Association board from 2014 until 2023.

During his time with ASA, Monte chaired the Trade Policy & International Affairs Committee. He was known for breaking down complicated topics, such as the China trade dispute, and guiding efforts to eliminate trade barriers and expand markets.

Monte served on the U.S. Soybean Export Council board from 2017 to 2023, including terms as vice chair,

chair, and past chair. As chair of the USSEC board, he led them through the COVID-19 pandemic, participating in hundreds of virtual meetings, continuing to strengthen key trade relationships, and reinforcing that U.S. soy is a reliable, high-quality product.

Through the ASA Corteva Young Leader Program, Monte spent time with new farmer leaders, encouraging them to take on committee work and guiding them through

how national policy connects back to their farms.

Colleagues often cite his steady guidance and willingness to listen as key to their development, both as producers and as community leaders.

Through his leadership, Monte left each organization he served more resilient, connected, and better equipped to advance the interests of soybean farmers in North Dakota, across the United States, and around the world.



ASA is pleased to congratulate Monte Peterson, winner of the 2026 ASA Distinguished Leadership Award.

Dave Walton recognized with Outstanding State Volunteer Award

The American Soybean Association (ASA) honored Iowa farmer Dave Walton with its Outstanding State Volunteer Award during the 2026 ASA Awards Celebration at the Commodity Classic trade show in San

Antonio.

The Outstanding Volunteer Award recognizes the dedication and exemplary contributions of volunteers with at least three years of volunteer service in

any area of their state association's operation.

For over a decade, Dave has dedicated his time and leadership to advancing soybean farmers' interests, serving in key roles on the Iowa Soybean

Association board, the ASA Executive Committee, the Iowa Biodiesel Board, and the Clean Fuels Alliance America board.

Dave has strengthened the soybean industry by building connections with policymakers, industry leaders, and fellow soybean farmers. He consistently goes above and beyond in advocacy, playing a key role in shaping his state's biodiesel

priorities.

Colleagues describe Dave as a steady, trusted advocate for farmer-led policy. He focuses not only on advancing farmers' priorities but on equipping farmers with the information they need to engage effectively, while ensuring policymakers and the public understand the real-world challenges facing agriculture.

Through his many years of volunteer service, Dave's efforts

in advocacy, education, and promotion have strengthened the voice of soybean growers at both the state and national level.

ASA congratulates Dave Walton, winner of the 2026 ASA Outstanding State Volunteer Award.



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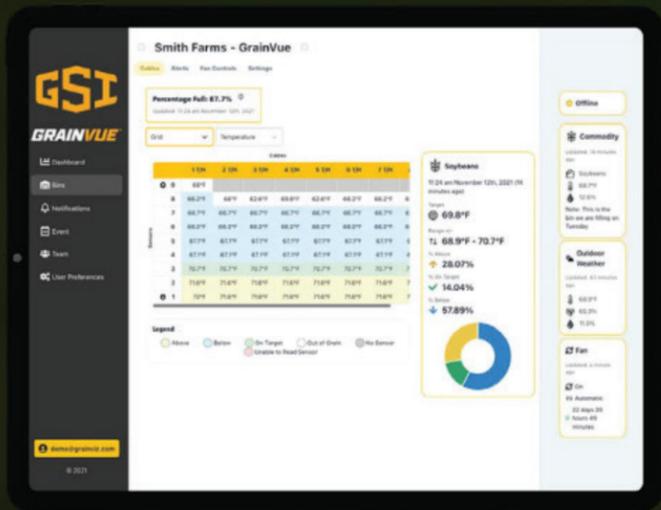
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Farm Credit Mid-America returning \$34.4 million to farmers in Kentucky

Farmer-owned cooperative continues patronage program this spring, returning a total \$280 million in net earnings to eligible customers

Louisville, Ky. - At a time when farmers continue to navigate tight margins, elevated input costs and ongoing market uncertainty, Farm Credit Mid-America will return \$280 million in net earnings to eligible customer-owners this March through its patronage program, with \$34.4 million returning to Kentucky farmers.

Customers commonly use patronage payments to:

- Pay down operating or term debt
- Offset spring input and planting costs
- Reinvest in equipment, land or on-farm improvements
- Strengthen working capital and financial resilience

This year's distribution brings the total amount of net earnings returned to customers over the past 10 years to more than \$1.75 billion, underscoring the



strength of Farm Credit Mid-America's diverse portfolio and commitment to support farmers through both good and challenging times.

"Returning capital to our customers is just part of how we do business as a cooperative," said Mark Barker, Farm Credit Mid-America senior vice president of agricultural lending in Kentucky. "Our customers manage risk every

day. Patronage gives them a little extra flexibility, whether that's strengthening their balance sheet, improving cash flow or helping them plan for the season ahead."

Farm Credit Mid-America is a farmer-owned cooperative, meaning customers are also owners. Through patronage, a portion of the cooperative's earnings is returned to eligible customer-owners based on the

level of eligible business they conduct with the Association. Patronage is an annual decision made by Farm Credit Mid-America's board of directors.

"Over the last decade, we've returned more than \$1.75 billion directly to the people who make agriculture work," said Tara Durbin, chief lending officer of agriculture at Farm Credit Mid-America. "A

portion of that capital stays in Kentucky where it supports farms, families and rural communities, which is exactly what our cooperative system was designed to do."

Farm Credit Mid-America serves agricultural producers, rural homeowners and agribusinesses across Arkansas, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio and Tennessee. In addition to patronage, the cooperative invests roughly \$5 million annually in rural communities through education, leadership development, youth programs and support for the next generation of agriculture.

To learn more about Farm Credit Mid-America's patronage program, eligibility requirements and customer-owner experiences, visit fcma.com/patronage.

###

About Farm Credit Mid-America

A proud member of the Farm Credit System, Farm Credit Mid-America is securing the future of rural communities and agriculture® as a leading provider of reliable, consistent credit and financial services to farmers, producers, agribusinesses and rural residents in Arkansas, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio and Tennessee. The customer-owned cooperative serves more than 145,000 customers and manages a portfolio of \$44.1 billion in total earning assets owned and managed. Farm Credit Mid-America's products and services include loans for real estate, operating, equipment, rural living, crop insurance and vehicle, equipment and building leases. For more information, visit www.fcma.com.

More ways to help the future of KY agriculture

Op-ed from Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell



FRANKFORT, Ky. - Last year, Kentucky farmers donated nearly \$1 million to Kentucky's Ag Tag fund. This year, with your help, we want to hit that \$1 million mark and beyond.

In 2025, Kentucky farmers donated a record-breaking \$995,440.74 to the Ag Tag Program. It was the largest amount

ever donated in a single year and topped the 2024 total by more than \$60,000. This year I'm hoping we can reach another record and create 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. The money is then split equally between the Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA), 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

see **FUTURE**
page B3

University of Kentucky Land-grant Engagement project unites communities through storytelling techniques

A UK Land-grant Engagement and collaborative project aims to bridge the gap between community development, and health and wellness practitioners through storytelling

By Christopher Carney

LEXINGTON, Ky.— The University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment and the UK College of Public Health (CPH) are using storytelling practice methods to help strengthen local communities.

The project, “Building a Storytelling for Engagement Community of Practice” (SECoP), aims to bring together the UK Cooperative Extension Service, scholars and researchers, health departments, community developers, social services and arts-based organizations to strengthen engagement.

Led by Nicole Breazeale, associate Extension professor of community development at Martin-Gatton CAFE,

and Margaret McGladrey, CPH assistant professor in the Department of Health Management and Policy, SECoP is all about bringing people together — moving from research to engagement.

“Community development and health and wellness practitioners often work in disciplinary silos,” Breazeale said. “The SECoP project helps bridge these silos. We want scholars and practitioners from across different sectors to grow their skill and social capital — using story-based methods to advance community engagement.”

In 2024, the UK Office of Land-grant Engagement announced funding for multiple projects, focusing on community engagement. The goal was to expand collaborative efforts

between UK and partners across the Commonwealth while addressing important public needs, showcasing the intersection of agriculture, Extension efforts and public health. SECoP was one of the nine projects selected.

“Storytelling is a great way to integrate community members’ voices into existing community programming,” McGladrey said. “We are creating opportunities for more personal storytelling, with deeper listening, to connect with what’s really happening in real-life.”

SECoP initially launched with a two-day retreat. Attended by students and professionals in public health, Extension, local food systems, community and leadership development across Kentucky, participants were able to engage in



Participants sharing stories at a Photovoice workshop.

Photo by Matt Barton

three storytelling practices.

The hope was that, at the retreat’s conclusion, participants would feel inspired to implement these and related community-based storytelling practices into their public work.

Storytelling through narrative medicine

Bradley Firchow is a fourth-year UK medical student. Located in Morehead, Ky., Firchow is part of the Rural Physician Leadership Program and the Caring for Appalachians Through Service (CATS) Clinic, which focuses on providing rural medicine and patient care in Appalachia.

Firchow has been learning to practice narrative medicine, an approach to healthcare that trains clinicians to listen closely to patients’ stories about illness, identity and meaning so care is guided not only by

see **LAND GRANT**, page B4

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FUTURE,
from page B1

community and the two leading agriculture youth development organizations, we are providing a strong backbone for Kentucky's agricultural future.

Starting this year, we have an additional avenue for Kentucky residents to show their appreciation for agriculture and our next generation of farmers. The "Friends of Agriculture" special license plate is now available to any resident, even if you don't qualify for a farm license plate.

The new plate was made possible after House Bill 157 passed during the 2025 legislative session. It expands the eligibility for an agriculture special license plate. Ten dollars of every purchase and \$5 of every renewal of the new plate will go into the "Ag Tag" fund and be divided equally among KDA, Kentucky 4-H and Kentucky FFA.

Here's how the two plates work:



- Farm license plate - Kentucky's farm license plate is for vehicles used for farm-related activities. It's available to any farmer engaged in the production of crops, livestock, or dairy products. Those purchasing or renewing their plates can opt to give a voluntary \$10 donation for the Ag Tag fund, which is dividing equally between KDA, Kentucky 4-H, and Kentucky FFA.

- Friends of Agriculture plate - Kentucky's special plate that can be purchased by any Kentucky driver. There is no special usage attached to the plate. Those purchasing pay a \$10 fee that goes to the Ag Tag fund that's equally distributed

between KDA, Kentucky 4-H, and Kentucky FFA. Those renewing the plate will pay a \$5 fee that will go to the Ag Tag fund.

Both the voluntary donation from the farm truck plate and the mandatory fee from the Friends of Agriculture plate go into the "Ag Tag" fund to benefit Kentucky's leading agricultural youth organizations.

FFA and 4-H have helped shape the lives of many children across the nation by creating experiences that make lasting impacts. 4-H and FFA are the two youth programs at the forefront of the future of Kentucky agriculture, providing direction in life for many of our young people. With just the purchase of a license plate, you can help create those lasting

impacts.

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, the University of Kentucky Grain and Forage Center of Excellence, and the Kentucky Farm to School Stars Recognition Program, which rewards school districts for increasing food purchases directly from Kentucky farmers.

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.

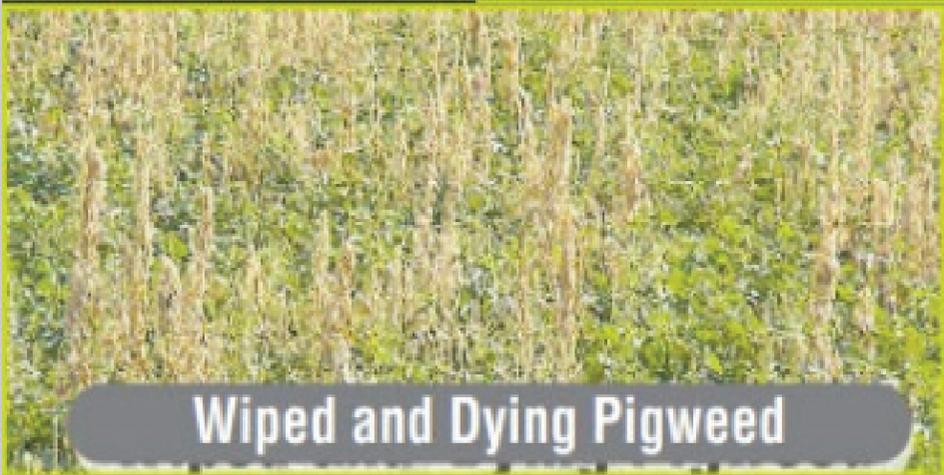
That unselfish willingness to help build and prepare Kentucky's agriculture youth are predominant features of FFA and 4-H. While they work to prepare youth to take on the challenges agriculture faces, KDA works every day to promote Kentucky's farmers, inviting each resident in the Commonwealth to realize 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 "Fruitful 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 vehicle plates, I hope you will make the choice to contribute to Kentucky's agricultural future. Together, we can make a lasting impact and ensure a bright future for Kentucky agriculture.

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LAND GRANT,
from page B2

tests and diagnoses but by lived experience.

"A patient may talk about breathlessness but keeps circling back to how they can no longer tend the hillside garden or keep up with neighbors at the church supper, which leaves their days feeling long and closed-in," Firchow said. "Hearing this, a clinician might shift the visit from lab values and prescriptions to figuring out how care might help the patient stay connected to the land and people that have always given his life shape."

Firchow knew when he first arrived in 2024

at the SECoP retreat at the Barefoot campgrounds in Fountain Run, Ky., that he was with good company.

"It was such a change of pace from being at the hospital," Firchow said. "It was a chance to slow down and be with a group of people that shared my values. It was great to observe how others used storytelling through the different group exercises. This retreat really lit a fire under me."

Today, Firchow said, he thinks about storytelling even more. He's writing more short stories, submitting academic research articles, and has authored several peer-reviewed, creative publications that incorporate storytelling. He is a

founding member of the Sawstone Writer's Guild in Morehead. He even co-wrote a story with a patient.

"If I have something important to say, I write it down and get it out," Firchow said. "I now have the confidence to be in rooms with inter-generational writers and help provide better patient care through storytelling."

Extension training and impact

SECoP members were invited to participate in a handful of additional in-person and virtual trainings on other storytelling methods, including Ripple Effects Mapping (REM), photovoice and Narrative 4.

Lola Adedokun,

Extension assistant professor of program evaluation in the Department of Community and Leadership Development (CLD), who leads statewide Extension program evaluation efforts, was one of the participants in the two-day REM training.

A group of participants sharing stories at the SECoP retreat located at the Barefoot Republic Camp and Retreat Center in Fountain Run, Kentucky. Photo provided by Carly Meyers.

Participants sharing stories at the SECoP retreat located at the Barefoot Republic Camp Center in Fountain Run, Kentucky. Photo provided by Carly Meyers

Adedokun is excited about REM, a tool that captures program impacts by weaving together participant stories. Through Extension training efforts, she believes that storytelling, and bringing all pertinent stakeholders together, improves the lives of Kentuckians.

"Sometimes the numbers don't tell the complete story," Adedokun said. "We must bring program participants together to reflect on outcomes and impact, to provide rich, in-depth qualitative data. Combining both quantitative and qualitative methods is a more robust approach to evaluating Extension and community-engagement programs."

Adedokun plans on utilizing more storytelling practices in her Extension, teaching and research efforts.

Ryan Linton, program assistant in Spencer County Extension Office and current graduate student in the CLD program at Martin-Gatton CAFE, has been working on several storytelling initiatives after attending the SECoP retreat.

Linton works with Breazeale on the Food, Farming and Community curriculum, an interactive, story-based learning tool that explores local food systems and

see **LAND GRANT,**
page B5



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LAND GRANT,
from page B4

agriculture career paths for Kentucky youth. At Spencer County High School, Linton helped facilitate the curriculum for high school students and provided space for students to unpack their lived experiences. Linton also assisted with the Spencer County FCS Homemakers storytelling workshop, where homemakers participated in story writing and learned the value of creativity and self-expression. "My hope is that these storytelling programs can build stronger, more resilient and empathetic networks of people that are better equipped to solve issues together," Linton said. "Storytelling empowers people to take their place as a stakeholder, and everyone's story is part of the solution."

Public health

Margaret Scripps -Matchuny is the empowerment program specialist for The Center for Women and Families (CWF) in Louisville, overseeing the services and caring for domestic or sexual violence survivors in surrounding counties in Kentucky and Indiana. Since attending the SECoP retreat, Scripps has been using story circles, which is a structured process in which a small group of individuals sit in a circle and share stories based on a prompt. Through CWF's partnerships with Louisville Metro and the Kentucky Association of Sexual Assault Programs (KASAP), Breazeale helped Scripps get ready to facilitate these circles at a public event and build deeper connections with survivors through storytelling.

"I don't think you can offer effective programming without understanding the lived experiences from the people that you are doing the program for," Scripps said. "We need to consult with those people and walk

in their shoes." By listening deeply to survivors' stories, the hope is to build better programs, services and laws surrounding domestic violence and sexual assault. "Storytelling fills in the color of the coloring book," Scripps said. "It provides us the vibrancy to stand the test of time. This is only the beginning of me using storytelling methods in my work."

In the classroom

McGladrey recently helped UK students explore community issues through Photovoice, a participatory research method that blends photographs,

lived experience and collective storytelling. Photovoice brings a depth that traditional research methods sometimes miss, according to McGladrey. "We know we can learn and understand and study what's happening from a book perspective," she said. "But Photovoice really allows you to get into folks' hearts, to get into the emotions and get into their whole lived experience."

In June 2025, the SECoP hosted a photovoice training for 38 people (beginning and advanced tracks) with the help of Photovoice Worldwide. Participants left with a better understanding of how storytelling

can contribute to systems change. Storytelling and community-based practices involve everyone, according to Breazeale. "We are all

storytellers," Breazeale said. "Through stories, we are giving people a voice and it's helping practitioners, researchers and professionals do their

jobs better. We need everyone in the community to participate." Learn more about UK Land-grant Engagement resources and initiatives.



Bradley Firchow (right) connecting with patient at a CATS Clinic. Photo by Carter Skaggs



Amish CONSIGNMENT AUCTION



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DIRECTIONS: Hart County Fairgrounds, 2184 S. Dixie Hwy. (Hwy. 31W), Munfordville, KY. Take I-65 to Munfordville exit (EXIT 65), Hwy 31W South, approx 2.5 miles to auction on left. Signs posted.

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AI is transforming agriculture

Technology has revolutionized global agriculture. Automation has changed the agricultural sector, and those changes might have arrived in the nick of time.

The global population is projected to reach nearly 10 billion by 2050, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations estimates that food production has to increase by at least 70 percent to keep up with demand. In order to address the deficit without exhausting the Earth's finite resources, many farmers are seeking help from artificial intelligence (AI). AI offers farmers additional perks as well.

Precision agriculture

Precision is a notable benefit of utilizing AI within the agricultural sector. By using AI-powered sensors and satellite imagery, farmers can monitor crop health by looking at each and every plant instead of inspecting by the acre. According to a



report by MarketsandMarkets, a revenue impact and marketing consulting firm, the market for AI in agriculture is expected to grow from \$1.7 billion (the figure in 2023) to \$4.7 billion by 2028.

Precision helps to keep plants strong and weed-free. AI-driven "see-and-spray" technology utilizes computers to identify weeds among crops and

apply herbicides only to those weeds. This reduces blanket-spraying an entire field, which is a waste of resources. Research published in the Journal of Agriculture and Food Chemistry indicates that this AI-guided tool can reduce herbicide use by up to 90 percent. This reduces costs to farmers and benefits local ecosystems.

Risk management

Weather across the planet has featured an uptick in volatile, unanticipated conditions. This can make planting even more challenging for farmers. AI models can process decades of historical weather data, soil conditions and atmospheric changes to offer predictive analytics that help the agriculture industry. By using predictive AI

tools, farmers can determine optimal planting windows to maximize yield, according to the International Food Policy Research Institute. In addition, AI algorithms can predict outbreaks of pests and diseases before farmers notice them on their own. Multispectral imagery from drones can detect crop stress caused by nutritional deficiencies

or fungus days before a human might recognize such indicators. By catching things early, farmers can reduce risk of a poor crop and financial losses.

Automation

Agricultural labor shortages are forcing farming operations to seek alternatives to get the job done. The American Farm Bureau Federation notes that farm labor has become more expensive and it's harder to find workers who want to do the arduous tasks often required of them. AI-driven robotics and autonomous tractors guided by GPS can help fill the void. These devices can work through the night, preparing soil, harvesting crops and performing other vital tasks.

AI continues to be integrated into the agricultural sector. In order to maintain food security and mitigate labor shortages, farming operations are using technological tools to bridge gaps and improve efficiency.

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How agricultural technology can help improve sustainability

Sustainable agriculture is an approach to farming that will allow modern farmers to meet the needs of a growing population while enhancing environmental quality. That can benefit both current and future generations, and technology will play a vital role in realizing the goals of sustainable agriculture.

According to the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, sustainable agriculture is designed to meet the needs of the present without compromising future generations' ability to meet their own needs. That's a worthy goal, especially in the face of a growing global population that the United Nations estimates will increase by two billion persons by 2050.

There are numerous benefits to utilizing sustainable agriculture technology, which can be especially advantageous to



modern farmers.

Efficient land management

Modeling technologies can be utilized to make more efficient use of land. According to Sustainable Brands, a global community of brand innovators, modeling technologies can be employed in a

host of ways, including to identify tillage practices and the status of tile drainage. Certain agricultural technologies have been designed to predict the performance of cropland, which can allow farmers to more effectively and efficiently use their

land. Farmers also can employ modeling technologies to determine soil health and water needs and usage, which can benefit the land and ensure resources aren't wasted. Utilization of such technologies ensures farmers can meet the needs of modern consumers without

affecting future farmers' ability to do the same.

Reduce runoff

The United States Environmental Protection Agency notes that runoff poses a significant threat to the environment. When runoff occurs, fertilizer, bacteria and

other pollutants find their way into streams, rivers, lakes, and the ocean. Sustainable Brands notes that nanotechnology is an efficient way to deliver nutrients to crops that can improve both the efficacy of the nutrients and reduce runoff.

Protect crops

Sustainable Brands notes that agricultural biologicals are inputs derived from natural materials that have low toxicity. That low toxicity reduces their environmental impact. Agricultural biologicals utilize the properties of such things as bacteria, fungi and even insects to support healthy crops, potentially improving yield without adversely affecting the environment.

Sustainable agriculture technologies can help modern farmers and their successors meet the needs of a rapidly growing global population.

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- Recirculating plumbing w/quick fill tank, Clean load system



1010 Nurse Trailer w/Inductor

Additional Options:

Electric brakes, Lights, Fenders, Ball Coupler, Pintle Coupler, High speed axles, wheels and tires, Shuttle platform, 15 or 30 gal. mix and fill tank, Clean load system

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2026 Kentucky Junior Chef season opens

Schools encouraged to organize teams, plan recipes



FRANKFORT, Ky. – The 2026 Kentucky Junior Chef Competition is now open, Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell has announced.

“Young chefs across the state can begin preparing for this year’s Junior Chef challenge,” Commissioner Shell said. “The culinary skills our young chefs have showcased throughout the years is just a fraction of their ability to create delicious recipes with wonderful Kentucky products.”

The Junior Chef program encourages participating students

to learn how to cook by using local ingredients to prepare healthy meals while teaching students about agriculture, marketing, organization, teamwork, and community involvement.

The competition is part of the Kentucky Proud Farm to School Program, which helps Kentucky schools purchase local foods. Children get fresh, nutritious local foods to help them grow up healthy and strong. Local farmers get another market for their farm products. The Kentucky Department of Agriculture (KDA) administers the Farm to School Program and the Junior Chef competition.

With the 2026 season opening, students and coaches can begin organizing teams and developing recipes using Kentucky products. At the state level, winning teams can receive scholarships to culinary schools. The state winner moves on to the Southeast Region Junior Chef Competition for more scholarship

opportunities. Those interested in competing this year must submit their intent to complete, along with a recipe concept by May 30, 2026. Specific guidelines can be found in the Kentucky Junior Chef Handbook on the Kentucky Junior Chef website at kyagr.com/junior-chef under the “What to Know” button.

Between June and September, teams will finalize their recipes, participate in team workshops with KDA chefs, and submit their nutritional analysis for review and clearance. Finalized recipes must be submitted to KDA by Oct. 1, 2026, along with a completed packet that includes a shopping list, photos, taste test documentation, work plan, and the entry fee.

This year the 2026 Kentucky Junior Chef State Competition is Nov. 12-13 at Sullivan University in Lexington.

For more information, visit kyagr.com/junior-chef.

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Soybean season fueled with hope

As another growing season approaches, soybean producers are facing uncertainty in their bottom lines, as they continue to carry with them a farmer's optimism.

American humorist Will Rogers once said, "The farmer has to be an optimist, or he wouldn't still be a farmer." Truer words have likely never been spoken about farm families. They continually face unknown obstacles each year in producing the necessary food, fuel, and fiber that everyone depends on.

This year will be no different as a planting season awaits, with many decisions having already been made connected to crop production for the 2026 season. As input costs continue to climb and crop prices continue on a bit of a roller coaster ride, "optimism" is about the only thing farmers can depend on for certain, and some of that may be in short supply depending on a number of factors.

From a positive perspective, grain production in Kentucky has steadily increased over the last two decades, with soybeans being a major commodity and part of continual crop rotations on most farms.

Jonathan Reynolds and Fred Sipes are producers in different regions of the state serving in soybean association leadership roles. Reynolds, from Hickman County, is the current Kentucky Soybean Association (KSA) president, and Secretary-Treasurer of the Kentucky Soybean Board (KSB), and Sipes, from Meade County, is the KSB chair, as well as an American Soybean Association (ASA) board member.

Both are hopeful for a good growing season and reasonable market conditions that would lead to profitability on the farm.

However, the two recognize that they will need favorable weather conditions, improved commodity prices to offset input costs, and new opportunities both at home and abroad for their crops.

"First, we need more domestic demand," Sipes said. "I know the export markets, such as those with China and other countries, are important, but we really need to find ways to use our products domestically, and I think biofuels, aviation fuels, and clean fuels are a route we can go and try to help use our soybeans here."

One such way to increase domestic soybean use is through the expanded capacity for crushing. "Crushing" refers to the process of extracting meal and oil from the beans, according to information distributed by the USDA Economic Research Service. A recent rise in domestic soybean crushing has kept more of the product in the United States. In fact, the U.S. soybean crush is forecast to increase by nearly 3 percent to a record-high level of 2.49 billion bushels. With more soybean crushing facilities currently under construction, "crush is expected to account for 57 percent of U.S. soybean production, up more than 10 percentage points from 2017/18." These facilities will also create opportunities for U.S. soybean farmers, processors, and consumers.

Reynolds said he thinks these industry shifts could positively impact producers in Kentucky.

"Within five years, we're going to have a drastic increase in our crush capacity, so the really big push on the soybean side is for biofuel policy, and then, of course, sustainable aviation fuel," he said. "If that were to get actually mandated and we get that passed here in

the US, specifically in Kentucky, we've got UPS, Amazon, and DHL in this area, and there could be a large demand for aviation fuel that could be fueled or could be fulfilled right here in this state with Kentucky soybeans."

Regulatory hurdles

Much of the biofuel's regulatory efforts rest in the hands of the federal government or Congress, but there has been a considerable amount of movement in specific areas. For instance, the Clean Fuel Production Credit, also known as the 45Z tax credit, was established for clean fuel production, which became available beginning January 1, 2025.

This income tax credit is for the domestic production of clean transportation fuel, which is divided into two broad categories: sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) and non-SAF transportation fuel, notes the Internal Revenue Service.

"The 45Z has caught traction, and it looks like it's moving in a positive way," Sipes said. "I feel like many of our government leaders are listening, but it takes so long to get things done. But I hope it's moving in the right direction for the farmers."

Taking it day by day

There are a lot of factors, besides biofuel outlooks or export market conditions, that go into planting decisions for farmers like Reynolds and Sipes, but at the end of the day it is about the bottom dollar.

"I think there are a lot of things to think about, whether it's the ins and outs of trade discussions, export markets, or biofuels expansion, but those things aren't necessarily top-of-mind every day when making our decisions," Reynolds said. "When it comes down to it, we're



looking at what the commodity prices are the day we're sitting down to do a crop budget or meeting with our banker. And in looking at what kind of crop year we may have, we ask ourselves, 'Will we be able to make money at these prices?' Those are things that influence a lot more decisions."

Sipes said the decisions he makes,

as all farmers do, is what needs to be done to keep the farm running and taking care of his family.

"We have a diverse farming operation with corn, soybeans, tobacco, and cattle, and I'm thankful we are so diversified," he said. "But when you go to set budgets for the year, you have to support your family and make a living. You've got to make

your farm payments, pay for the crop you're putting in the ground, and it is challenging right now."

Reynolds, who farms 1,500 acres of row crops, including corn, soybeans, and canola in Hickman County, also understands the

see **SOYBEAN** page B12

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Labor shortages in the agricultural sector

Labor shortages can make it hard for any business owner to compete, and those working in the agricultural sector are no exception to that reality. The U.S. Senate Committee on Aging notes that the median age of farmers in the United States is 58, and more farmers are older than 65 than under 44. That doesn't bode well for the future, but the labor shortages confronting the agricultural sector pose an immediate problem

as well. A January 2025 report from the agricultural tech firm Sabanto noted there are currently 2.4 million unfilled jobs within the agricultural sector. Labor shortages pose a unique challenge, but the following are some strategies agricultural operations can consider to overcome a lack of help.

• **Look for ways to automate.** Automation can be a lifeline that helps to

meet the challenge of labor shortages within the agricultural sector. Modern technology enables completion of various tasks, such as water measurement and soil analysis, through the use of automated sensors or programs. Automation can allow farmers to direct their limited personnel resources toward tasks that require hands-on work.

• **Join forces with fellow farmers.**

Another potential solution is to pool limited labor resources with other farmers in your area. Farmers can work together to identify workers who can be trained as specialists and then transported to various sites to perform vital tasks each farm needs to survive.

• **Cut down on field operations when possible.** Reducing reliance on tasks that cannot be automated is another strategy to

confront the labor shortage. For example, no-tillage farming methods require fewer personnel. Seasonal farming that limits operations during times of year when the available workforce is particularly scant also can help navigate the labor shortage.

• **Encourage local politicians to promote legislative solutions.** Policy reform that prioritizes access to labor within the agricultural sector can serve both short- and long-term needs.

Farmers can contact local politicians and let them know about the challenges facing the agricultural sector, offering invaluable feedback that can be used to write and promote farmer-friendly legislation.

The agricultural sector faces immediate and long-term labor shortages. Confronting that sizable challenge may require a willingness to embrace new strategies and promote important policy changes in the years ahead.

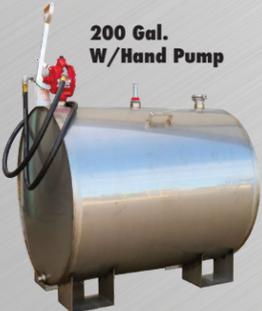
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SOYBEAN,
from page B11

difficulties in making ends meet these days.

"Ultimately, everything that I've always been told in life is that farming is very cyclical and we're at the bottom of a cycle right now," he said. "I know that it's easier said than done, but we've got to figure out a way to hold on until times are better. I think that's where, for all of us, we need to remember that these days, so that when days are better, we can put back, and pay off debt, so that these

lows are not as hard."

Both Reynolds and Sipes agree that "tightening up their bootstraps" right now is something that has to be done, but strong advocacy on behalf of the ag industry and prayers for a good crop year, stable markets, and continued support at all government levels will also be needed.

"With the amount of time and investment you have in a year's worth of work and knowing that it's a good year if you just break even, it's a pretty hard pill to swallow," Sipes said. "So, it is tough, but we pray for better days ahead."



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Greenhouses effectively extend growing seasons

Modern, large-scale agriculture operations utilize various machines and technologies to provide products to consumers. Greenhouses are among the resources used to help plants thrive.

Greenhouses are not a new phenomenon, even if today's incarnations have technological upgrades over their ancestors. The first attempts to grow plants in greenhouse-like structures likely date back to ancient Egypt, but there are writings from the

Romans as early as 14 BCE explaining greenhouse operations. The Roman emperor Tiberius wanted to eat cucumbers all year long. Roman winters would not allow for cucumbers to thrive when temperatures dropped below freezing. Rolling cucumber growing carts into sheds only did so much. Someone came up with the concept of making sheds with sheets of efenite, a transparent rock, to let the sun in and help keep cucumbers growing indoors warm. The

idea took off from there.

Greenhouses are comprised of walls and roofing materials primarily made of a transparent material. The interior of a greenhouse exposed to sunlight becomes significantly warmer than the external temperature, helping to protect plants inside from extreme conditions and enabling plants to thrive even when weather conditions are not optimal. Through the years, greenhouses also may have incorporated some form of

additional heating.

Keeping plants thriving for commercial production now gets additional help from computers, as relying on sunlight alone may result in fluctuations in optimal conditions. Modern, smart greenhouses, according to the cultivation technology company Growlink, employ smart technology for heating, cooling and lighting. This tech is connected to a computer to optimize plant growth conditions. Computers can adjust conditions accordingly for the particular plant being produced, such as for tropical fruits that

require more moisture and heat.

Anyone who desires a greenhouse for personal plant growth can build one in his or her backyard with various plans available for free or purchase. Companies also sell prefabricated greenhouse kits that can be erected with relative ease.

Handy homeowners also can construct basic greenhouses with materials found at many home improvement retailers. A wood frame greenhouse can be built in any size and covered with plastic sheeting. One can purchase a prefabricated greenhouse door or

simply use a sheet of weighted plastic that can be tied out of the way for the door. To allow for ventilation in hot weather, a wood-frame vent that can be propped open can be incorporated into the roof rafter design.

Those who want a more permanent structure may want to look into using greenhouse plastic paneling in lieu of plastic sheeting. Either way, home greenhouses can be as elaborate or as simple as individuals desire.

Greenhouses are effective ways to extend growing seasons for both commercial and home gardeners.





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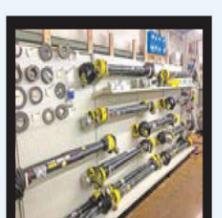


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AFBF statement on Supreme Court Tariff ruling

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall commented today on the Supreme Court's decision to strike down the administration's use of tariffs.

"America's farmers understand the president's efforts to use tariffs to create a more level playing field for U.S. goods, U.S. workers and the U.S. economy. Unfortunately, trade disruptions and declining prices for agricultural goods

created additional hardships for farmers who came into 2025 already dealing with crippling inflation and declining farm prices. We appreciate the President responding to trade and market disruptions by delivering important financial assistance. Open and fair markets are critical to help rebuild the farm economy.

"In light of today's Supreme Court ruling, we urge the administration to work swiftly to find

other ways to resolve trade disputes and finalize recently announced trade frameworks. With supply costs already at or near record highs, we strongly encourage the president to avoid using any other available authorities to impose tariffs on agricultural inputs that would further increase costs. America's farmers and ranchers need stability to ensure families across America can put food on their tables."



Photo credit: AFBF photo by Mike Tomko



photo credit: AFBF Photo, Sydney Garrett

Farm Bureau welcomes USDA's streamlined efforts

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall commented today on USDA's new "One Farmer, One File" initiative, which promises to streamline efforts to make its services more efficient for farmers and ranchers across the country.

"Farmers and ranchers rely on USDA for up-to-date

resources to keep our businesses running and our food supply secure. Today's announcement is welcome news to ensure farmers quickly receive the information and resources they need.

"At a time when farmers are facing a tough farm economy and rising pressures, we all count on USDA to deliver the

programs and support that will keep our farms moving forward. Farmers and ranchers need to make every dollar and every minute count on the farm, and having an easier system to navigate USDA programs will free up farmers for the work of growing our nation's food, fiber and fuel."

Farmers appreciate focus on supply chain issues

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall commented today on President Trump's executive order to boost production of certain crop protection tools.

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"AFBF appreciates the administration for affirming that food security is national security. Effective products reviewed and approved by the



Photo credit: AFBF photo by Dylan Davidson

EPA enable farmers to protect the health of their crops while using fewer natural resources. A strong domestic supply chain reduces dependence on foreign imports

and helps ensure continued access to tools that contribute to the success of farmers who grow the food and fiber America's families rely on."

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A hub for leadership': Martin-Gatton CAFE launches Student Leadership Academy

The Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Student Leadership Academy aims to equip students to be leaders

By Bailey Vandiver

LEXINGTON, Ky.— The University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment is investing in the next generation of changemakers through its new Student Leadership Academy (SLA). Designed to position the college as a hub for leadership development, the academy celebrates its inaugural cohort of students and marks a major milestone within the Scholarships and Student Success pillar of The Bill Gatton Foundation's transformational gift.

SLA is a two-year program, combining the cohort experience with earning the Martin-Gatton CAFE Agricultural Leadership Certificate. SLA participants will be in certificate courses together, complete a capstone in which they partner with an industry group to tackle a challenge, and take in-state and out-of-state trips for professional and experiential learning.

"The goal is to scaffold our students as leaders," said Savannah Robin, SLA director and AFE 100 coordinator. "We want our college to be a hub for leadership in Kentucky."

SLA will leverage the Kentucky Agricultural Leadership Program's (KALP) network. KALP, which just announced its 15th class, is a program that provides leadership development to a select group of participants in the agricultural industry.

"By partnering with KALP graduates, we have a unique opportunity to connect students with accomplished industry professionals, providing real-world experiences and firsthand insight into the challenges and opportunities shaping agriculture today," said Emily Roe Brown, KALP program coordinator.

The first cohort, which officially begins

in Fall 2026 and concludes in 2028, includes 18 students who represent nine majors across Martin-Gatton CAFE.

Aaron Joseph, a pre-med agricultural and medical biotechnology (AMBT) sophomore from Louisville, is part of SLA's first cohort and is looking forward to building community with other Martin-Gatton CAFE students. After changing majors this year and becoming part of the college, he's excited to "meet like-minded people."

Joseph learned about SLA from one of his instructors and thought it seemed like a good fit.

"It's a good opportunity to practice and develop leadership skills," Joseph said. "When you're a physician, you're a leader in your community."

Wayne Centers, who begins his role as SLA senior program manager on May 1, said the academy aims to both expand the definition of leadership and expand leadership access. SLA welcomes students who may not have previous leadership experience, and program leaders hope to "intentionally cultivate" leadership skills, Centers said.

"The Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment strives to develop leaders for the Commonwealth and beyond," Centers said. "The Martin-Gatton SLA provides a structured approach to intentionally growing leadership capacity, expanding access to transformative experiences, and creating meaningful opportunities for students to practice their skills."

Erika Yurga, a pre-vet animal sciences sophomore from Madisonville, didn't grow up in agriculture but has come to love it.

"I wanted to be more involved, learn more and share agriculture," Yurga said.

Yurga said she is looking forward to experiencing

agriculture outside the classroom while connecting with others.

Liam Cotter, a sustainable agriculture and community food systems student from Rhode Island, is also eager to make connections and is passionate about educating others about agriculture. A transfer student who chose UK because he knew he could "really excel at agriculture" here, Cotter's goal is to help make high-quality food affordable to communities while ensuring farmers are profitable.

"I'm always looking for ways to outreach to others and make an impact, and I thought this leadership academy would be the perfect way to do that," Cotter said.

The first SLA cohort includes:

- Ava Arnett, Agricultural and Medical Biotechnology, Morganfield, Kentucky
- Blake Bratcher, Natural Resources and Environmental Science, Roundhill, Kentucky

- Liam Cotter, Sustainable Agriculture, Gloucester, Rhode Island

- Nate Crumbley, Agricultural Education and Advocacy, Bardstown, Kentucky

- Maggie Drake, Agricultural Economics, Bowling Green, Kentucky
- Mitchell Ellis, Agricultural Economics, Sabina, Ohio

- Laiyah Fletcher, Horticultural Science, Louisville, Kentucky

- Alexis Goldie, Agricultural Economics, Lexington, Kentucky

- Landon Groves, Animal Sciences, Greenville, Kentucky

- Brooklyn Hallberg, Food Biosciences, Lexington, Kentucky

- Tyren Harris, Agricultural Education and Advocacy, Lexington, Kentucky

- Na'zarius Jacobs, Equine Science and Management, Wilmington, North Carolina

- Aaron Joseph, Agricultural and



The first cohort of the Martin-Gatton CAFE Student Leadership Academy includes 18 students.

Photo by Sabrina Hounshell

- Medical Biotechnology, Louisville, Kentucky
- Julia McPherson, Community and Leadership Development, Mahomet, Illinois
- McKenna Nilsson, Equine Science and Management,

- Portland, Oregon

- Lily North, Agricultural Economics, Paris, Illinois

- Harper Ritchey, Natural Resources and Environmental Science, Princeton, Kentucky

- Erika Yurga, Animal Sciences, Madisonville, Kentucky

The Martin-Gatton CAFE Student Leadership Academy will begin building its second cohort in October 2026.



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