

FARMERS' Quarterly

★ ★ ★ **THANK YOU FARMERS!** ★ ★ ★

Regional students honored as Murray State FFA All-Region stars

By Laurna Todd
KPI Writer

The Hutson School of Agriculture at Murray State University recently recognized outstanding high school students from across the region during its annual FFA All-Region Stars Banquet. The recognition is based on students' demonstrated leadership, service, and commitment to

their local FFA chapters. Carlisle County High School celebrated four honorees this year, with Tucker, Kaidance, Kase, and Jonah all named Murray State University FFA All-Region Stars. Faculty and staff said they are proud of the students' accomplishments over the past four years and look forward to what the remainder of

their senior year will bring. Graves County High School also had three members recognized at the banquet. Darcey Sloan, Mannix Hamilton, and Brandon Hale were honored as Purchase Region FFA Stars, earning recognition for their leadership and dedication throughout their FFA careers. Fulton County FFA celebrated two senior officers, Emmarie and

Cara, who were selected as Murray State All-Star recipients. Chapter leaders noted that both students have consistently gone above and beyond in their roles and have demonstrated strong commitment to their school's FFA program. Several other schools from Western Kentucky also participated, though additional student names were not available before press

time. Carlisle County FFA advisor Mercedes Branham said the recognition is meaningful for students who have put in years of hard work. "It's an honor for our students to receive this recognition. It helps them see that their dedication does not go unnoticed," she said. Branham added that FFA chapters play a vital role in school programs and expressed hope that

all schools continue to offer agricultural education opportunities. The Murray State Hutson School of Agriculture was thanked by participating schools for its ongoing support of FFA members throughout the region. The All-Region Star honor remains one of the highest distinctions for students involved in agricultural education and leadership.



Carlisle County High School FFA students: L to R: Kaidance Vela, Tucker Arnold, Kase Kelly, Jonah Bruer



Graves County High School FFA students: L to R: Mannix Hamilton, Darcey Sloan, and Brandon Hale



Fulton County High School FFA students: L to R: Cara Capps and Emmarie Cermak

Investing in on-farm grain storage pays off for local farmers

By Laurna Todd
KPI Writer

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

flexibility to sell when market conditions are favorable, often capturing higher prices and additional buyers that may not be available at harvest. But the benefits don't stop there. On-farm storage systems also improve efficiency throughout harvest. Trucks keep moving with receiving systems in place, reducing labor, fuel, and downtime. Bucket elevators and chain

loops replace the hassle of moving augers, speeding up grain handling while protecting quality. For high-value equipment like combines, adequate on-farm storage and drying allows farmers to operate more efficiently, widen the harvest window, and reduce extra labor or machinery expenses. Safety and employee well-being are also improved, as a well-

designed system reduces long hours, rushed work, and the risk of mistakes. Plus, it gives farm families more time together during the busy harvest season. In Western Kentucky, Workman Bins Inc. in Mayfield is a trusted partner for farmers looking to invest in on-farm storage. Jason Workman helps growers determine the right bin size and equipment for their

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- #3 Agriculture provides 24 million jobs.
- #4 U.S. farmers produce about 40% of the world's corn.
- #5 An average U.S. farmer feeds 155 people.
- #6 For every o\$1 spent on food, farmers receive less than 12¢ for the raw products.
- #7 Most farms are family owned. These families take on exceptional risk and tight margins in order to make ends meet.
- #8 Only 210,000 full-time U.S. farmers produce 80% of our food and fiber.
- #9 The world's population will grow from 7 million to 9 million by 2050. Farmers will need to double food production to keep pace.
- #10 Americans spend only 10% of their incomes on food. That's the lowest percentage of any country.

5 ways to thank a farmer

- By Teresa Pearson**
Farmers' Quarterly Writer
- To celebrate Farmer's, we are saluting the farmers of today and tomorrow who work hard year-round to provide a food supply to the world.
- Agriculture, food, and related industries contributed over \$1 trillion to the country's GDP, according to the USDA. Farmers are the most important part of the agricultural supply chain and farmers keep many industries thriving.
- Here are five ways to celebrate Thank a farmer
- Thank farmers for their hard work to protect our food supply and power our nation. Share kind words and appreciation via a card or on social media. Buy a farmer a cup of coffee or even pay for their meal when you see them out.
 - Support the next generation of young farmers to help ensure agriculture's future. Organizations like the National FFA Organization and 4-H emphasize the lasting impact of agricultural production through young people.
 - Purchasing produce and products made with farmer's crops at a local market is a great way to say thanks. Check with a local farmer to buy meat and other products they sell locally.
- Learn more about local agriculture to help make informed decisions, in turn helping farmers in your area and across the country. Take the time to learn about methods of production, government programs, and laws regarding farming. Also, visit a local farm for some additional knowledge on how food gets from the field to your plate.
 - Take time this week to reflect on what we can do throughout the year to support farmers.
- To our farmers, thank you for keeping the world fed. Your commitment drives the agricultural supply chain.

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9 Holiday tradition rooted in Agriculture

'Tis the season for feasting with friends and family, singing nostalgic Christmas carols, and decorating sugar cookies and gingerbread houses. We all have our favorite family traditions this time of year, but have you ever wondered how many of them are rooted in agriculture? Here are eight favorite holiday traditions from around the world that can be traced back to the farm.

1. **Christmas Trees**

Found in millions of homes, dotting countless holiday cards and in virtually every Christmas movie on television, the humble Christmas

tree is perhaps the most obvious holiday tradition that is connected to agriculture. While fewer Americans than ever are growing up on picturesque farms these days, you can't help but envision (and maybe even long for) one at this time of year. Christmas trees are a popular tradition throughout the United States, with anywhere from 25 to 36 million fresh-cut trees making their way from the farm to people's homes each year.

2. **Christmas Dinner**

Because the U.S. is such a melting pot, it's hard to narrow down the Christmas

meal to a single dish. But most people's holiday meals are centered around meat, with turkey, ham and roast beef being the most popular dishes found on American tables during the holidays. It almost goes without saying that you wouldn't be able to enjoy your holiday feast without the help of a hardworking farm

3. **Yule Logs**

Did you know the famous Yule log tradition was born in ancient Norway? This historic tradition began when the ancient Norse started burning logs to celebrate the return of the sun at winter solstice. Yule, in Norse,

translates to wheel, which ties into their belief that the sun was a great wheel of fire. Even if you don't burn a Yule log of your own this season, you might enjoy gathering around a crackling fireplace or munching on log-shaped cheeses, cakes and other tasty treats during the holidays.

4. **Mistletoe**

Today we all get a good laugh out of kissing under the mistletoe, but this ancient tradition can be traced back to the early Celts and Teutons. They believed sprigs of mistletoe could not only heal wounds but increase fertility. They even performed fertility rituals beneath it. Over time, this mysterious plant was also believed to ward off evil spirits and bring good luck into the homes of those who hung it. It wasn't until the Victorian Era in England that we began to see people kissing beneath these bright green sprigs, a behavior that brought many a flushed cheek to those in Victorian society.

5. **Exchanging Presents**

Waking up to brightly wrapped presents beneath the tree is arguably one of the most beloved traditions for those who celebrate Christmas. But there's more to this tradition than meets the eye. Some say this custom can be traced all the



Photo credit: iStock/Liliboas

way back to Roman history and their seven day celebration of Saturnalia. They feasted, decorated and exchanged gifts with the belief that doing so would bring happiness and an abundant harvest in the coming year.

6. **Nativity Scenes**

Many of our holiday traditions that link us to our ancestors revolve around the hope of a better harvest in the new year. Nativity scenes in Finland, for example, often include a Christmas goat made of the last sheaf of wheat from the harvest. This was meant to bring good luck in the coming year. Despite its ancient roots, this is still a common tradition during the winter season in Finland.

7. **Candy Canes**

No explanation needed. Candy canes and Christmas go hand in hand.

8. **Julenisse**

Unless you grew up in Norway or know a lot about Norse culture, you may not be familiar with the Julenisse. Otherwise known as the Christmas gnome, this folklore creation is said to love farm animals and promise to take good care of them for you as long as you hang food in your Christmas tree and in a sock on the mantel and leave him a saucer of porridge to enjoy on Christmas Day.

9. **Holiday Breads**

In Bulgaria, elaborately decorated sweet breads accompany the traditional Christmas meal. But these aren't just any old decorations. Most of these include symbols of farming activities, such as stables and ploughs, animals and vineyards, beehives and grain fields. Folklore says these beautiful breads are one way to ensure a prosperous harvest next season.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SEMI: 1999 Kenworth T800 614,611mi. Caterpillar Engine, 8 Speed Transmission, Heat, Air, Radio, wet kit, aluminum wheels, adjustable fifth wheel, Runs and Operates, VIN#1XKDD9X6XJ797607;

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

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

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

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



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For the love of American farmers

By Teresa Pearson
Farmers' Quarterly
writer

A farmer's main goal is to produce a good crop and/or healthy animals in order to make a living and to feed the population. Farmers are responsible for all crops and livestock that are needed for us to survive. Farmers work hard every day to keep plenty of crops and animal products in the market.

Farmers work under the umbrella of agriculture, producing a variety of food products for human and animal consumption. There are several kinds of farmers ranging from farmers who raise animals to farmers who grow crops.

There is a quote that is very accurate when describing a farmer - "Farmers farm for the love of farming. They love to watch and nurture the growth of plants.

They love to live in the presence of animals. They love to work outdoors. They love the weather, maybe even when it is making them miserable." - Wendell Berry.

A farmer has various responsibilities within their particular field. Whether it is the purchasing and planting of seeds on a cash crop farm, the purchasing of quality breeding stock on an animal farm, or the diet and care of a specific type of livestock on an animal production farm, a farmer needs to have a wide knowledge base of the agricultural industry as a whole.

Besides the general knowledge of planting dates, breeding cycles and harvesting periods, a farmer often needs a good working knowledge of mechanics in order to keep their equipment running.



A farmer has to have strong knowledge of the regulations of the Food and Drug Administration, state agencies, and local government, as there are many regulations placed on the agricultural industry.

There are various types of farmers, including:

Organic Farmer - produces fruits,

vegetables, grains, or livestock without the use of pesticides, herbicides, or chemical fertilizers

Grain and Forage Crop Farmer - grows grains such as wheat, barley, canola, oats, rye, flax, peas and specialty crops or forage crops

Dairy Farmer - owns or manages a farm where cows are raised for the production of milk

and other dairy products

Poultry Farmer - raises domesticated birds such as geese, ducks, turkeys or chickens

Rancher - raises livestock such as cattle or sheep, or less common livestock such as elk, bison, ostrich, emu or alpacas

Beekeeper - keeps honey bees, and produces honey,

pollen, royal jelly and beeswax

Vermiculturist - breeds worms and uses the worms to convert waste products such as uneaten food, feces, grass clippings, and spoiled fruit and vegetables into healthy, nutrient-rich soil and organic fertilizer

Farmers have distinct personalities. They tend to be enterprising individuals, which means they're adventurous, ambitious, assertive, extroverted, energetic, enthusiastic, confident, and optimistic.

Farmers earn an average hourly wage of \$11.21. Salaries typically start from \$9.85 per hour and go up to \$16.01 per hour. (Considering the number of hours a farmer works).

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Kentucky Agriculture Finance Corp. announces more than \$4.1M in loans

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

FRANKFORT – The Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corp. (KAFC) approved 19 agricultural loans totaling \$4,112,135 for projects across the Commonwealth today at its monthly board meeting.

Agricultural Infrastructure Loan Program (AILP)
Six Agricultural

Infrastructure loans totaling up to \$1,380,000 were approved. Loan recipients were in Caldwell (\$250,000), Graves (\$250,000 and \$250,000), Trigg (\$130,000), and Webster (\$250,000 and \$250,000) counties.

KAFC participates with lenders to provide financing to producers making capital expenditures

for agricultural projects through the AILP. Eligible projects include permanent farm structures with attached equipment that improves the profitability of farming operations. Producers may be eligible for up to \$250,000 not to exceed 50 percent of the project.

Beginning Farmer

Loan Program (BFLP)

Thirteen Beginning Farmer loans totaling up to \$2,732,135 were approved. Loan recipients were in Breckinridge (\$90,750 and \$202,400), Caldwell (\$125,000), Fleming (\$250,000), Graves (\$250,000), Green (\$250,000), Hickman (\$249,280), Mercer (\$152,000 and \$250,000), Ohio (\$250,000 and

\$250,000), Washington (\$162,705), and Woodford (\$250,000) counties.

The BFLP is designed to assist individuals with some farming experience who desire to develop, expand, or buy into a farming operation. Beginning farmers may qualify for financing to purchase livestock, equipment, or agriculture

facilities; to secure permanent working capital; for the purchase of farm real estate; or to invest in a partnership or LLC.

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

Steps farmers can take to combat climate change

Climate change is a challenge the world must confront together. Though people from all walks of life and in all corners of the world will be affected by rising global temperatures and the ripple effects of such increases, the impact of climate change on the agricultural sector figures to be especially significant.

Farmers have been on the front lines in the fight against climate change for decades. When storms strike and climate patterns shift, farmers must find ways to adapt or potentially lose their livelihoods. Experts warn that the planet is warming at a pace that could prove devastating. For example, one assessment conducted under the World Climate Research Programme and published in 2020 in the Reviews of Geophysics concluded that the warming range of the planet will be between 2.6°C and 3.9°C.

Everyone must do their part in an effort to avoid the more drastic outcomes associated with climate change. Farmers can explore these ways to combat climate change as they look to protect their personal and financial futures.

• Curtail methane emissions. The European Environment Agency

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2025 @ 8AM (CST)

LOCATION: 1010 Skyline Drive, Hopkinsville, KY
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Delbert Roeder - Broker - AHO#4090

Cal Kaufman - Auctioneer - Lic.#NP6114 • Brent Schmidgail - Auctioneer



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 1L06155RHL P960224



2012 JOHN DEERE 9460R
\$139,500

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



2024 JOHN DEERE 5120M
\$102,500

MFWD, C/H/A, 7.4 HRS, JD 540M LOADER W/ BUCKET, 380/85R24 FRONT TIRES, 460/85R34 REAR TIRES, 3 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, 16 SPEED POWER QUAD, LHR, S/N 1PY5120MKRB000767, *BASIC WARRANTY TIL 12/2026



2018 JOHN DEERE 6155R
\$97,500

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



2012 JOHN DEERE 7215R
\$97,500

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



2009 JOHN DEERE 8330
\$86,000

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



2004 JOHN DEERE 8120
\$75,500

MFWD, 6542 HRS, 420/90R30 FRONT TIRES, 480/80R46 REAR DUALS, 4 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, POWERSHIFT TRANSMISSION, S/N RW8120P031064



2004 JOHN DEERE 8120
\$65,500

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



2023 JOHN DEERE 5075E
\$56,500

MFWD, C/H/A, 142 HRS, 11.2-24 FRONT TIRES, 16.9-30 REAR TIRES, JD 520M LOADER W/ BUCKET, 2 SCV, 540 PTO, 12 SPEED LHR, S/N 1PY5075EVPP423676



1994 CASE IH 7220
\$54,500

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



KUBOTA L6060HSTC
\$45,000

KUBOTA L6060 HSTC TRACTOR, MFWD, C/H/A, 207 HRS, 9.5-16 FRONT TIRES, 14.9-26 REAR TIRES, KUBOTA LA1055 LOADER W/ BUCKET, 1 SCV, 540 PTO, S/N KBUL5FHCLM8B50714



JOHN DEERE 4960
\$44,500

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

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One Health-focused summit highlights Purdue's leadership in advancing human, plant and animal health



Purdue President Mung Chiang, at center, joined industry leaders in human, animal and plant health — including Corteva Inc. CEO Chuck Magro, at left, and Elanco CEO Jeff Simmons — to highlight how Purdue is advancing the One Health initiative at Thursday's (Nov. 13) BioCrossroads Life Sciences Summit at Elanco headquarters in Indianapolis

Purdue University photo/John Underwood

Purdue University leaders on Thursday (Nov. 13) joined more than 250 high-level representatives and experts from industry, academia, government and nonprofits for the BioCrossroads Life Sciences Summit to advance dialogue around Purdue's growing leadership in the One Health movement.

Held at Elanco's global headquarters in the emerging One Health Innovation District in Indianapolis, and presented in partnership with AgriNovus Indiana, the summit convened state and national thought leaders to discuss how Purdue's strengths in medicine discovery and delivery, animal health and plant science can advance health and the one-health economy.

From comparative oncology to crop genetic science and advanced chemistry,

discussions focused on where Purdue can make the greatest impact. Purdue President Mung Chiang underscored the importance of global health leadership and reaffirmed the university's commitment to uniting research and education across human, animal and plant health through its One Health and Indianapolis initiatives — two of Purdue's four strategic initiatives.

"Purdue is excited to partner with Elanco at the One Health Innovation District, a key success for both our One Health and Indianapolis initiatives," Chiang said. "Working also with companies such as Eli Lilly and Corteva Agriscience, our outstanding faculty and students advance the intersection of human, animal and plant health."

Panel discussions examined ways Purdue can:

- Align its strengths to address specific, high-impact One Health challenges
- Advance public health, environmental resilience and supply chain security
- Accelerate the vision for the One Health Innovation District
- Expand its global leadership in life sciences

Dan DeLaurentis, Purdue's executive vice president for research and the Bruce Reese Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics, was also a summit panelist and discussed how the university is working to attract top researchers, train students and invest in infrastructure to support industry needs.

Other Purdue speakers included:

- Sylvie Brouder — Wickersham Chair of Excellence in Agricultural Research; director, Purdue Center for Global Food Security
- Heather Eicher-Miller — professor of

see **SUMMIT**, page A11

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SUMMIT,
from page A10

nutrition science
Elizabeth Topp
— Maxine Spencer
Nichols Professor in
Chemical
Engineering; chief
science officer,
National Institute for
Bioprocessing
Research and
Training (NIBRT);
director, William D.
and Sherry L. Young
Institute for Advanced
Manufacturing of
Pharmaceuticals
Moderator: Lucy
Flesch — Frederick L.
Hovde Dean of the
College of Science;
professor of earth,
atmospheric, and

planetary sciences
U.S. Sen. Todd
Young of Indiana and
Ilya Yuffa, executive
vice president of Eli
Lilly and Company
and president of Lilly
USA and global
customer capabilities,
also participated in a
fireside chat to discuss
the state's pivotal role
in reshoring the
nation's animal, plant
and human health
supply chain. The
summit concluded
with remarks from
Vince Wong,
BioCrossroads
president and CEO,
who presented Young
with the August
Watanabe Life
Sciences Champion of
the Year Award.

STEPS,
from page A7

notes that capturing
methane from manure is
one way for farmers to
reduce agriculture-
related greenhouse gas
emissions. The
California Climate &
Agriculture Networks
notes that more than half
of the state's agricultural
emissions come from
livestock in the form of
methane. The nonprofit
organization Foodwise
reports that holistic,
pasture-based livestock
management utilizing
practices like rotational
grazing can help mitigate
methane emissions from
livestock.
• Emphasize efficient
use of fertilizers. The
EEA recommends
efficient use of fertilizers
as another means to
reduce agricultural
greenhouse gas
emissions. The National
Institute of Food and
Agriculture at the U.S.
Department of
Agriculture notes that
the greatest efficiency
typically comes from the

first increment of added
fertilizer/nutrients, with
each additional
increment thereafter
resulting in lower
efficiency. Making every
effort to make the most of
initial applications can
save farmers money and
reduce the impact on the
environment.
• Participate in and
help promote local
farmers markets.
Foodwise notes that food
in the United States
travels an average of
1,500 miles before it ends
up on consumers' plates.
Transporting foods that
far contributes to more
greenhouse gas
emissions. Farmers who
can sell to local farmers
markets can help reduce
such emissions.
Promoting those efforts
via social media pages or
other public platforms
can increase consumer
awareness of the
availability of fresh,
locally grown foods.
The challenges posed
by climate change are
not going away. Farmers
can take various steps to
overcome those
challenges.

ONLINE AUCTION

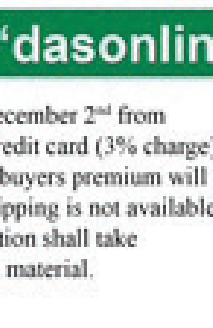
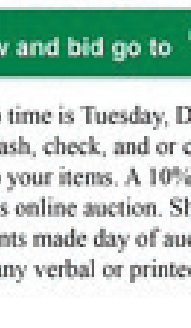
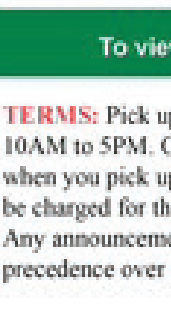
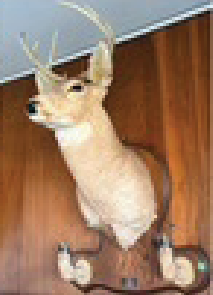
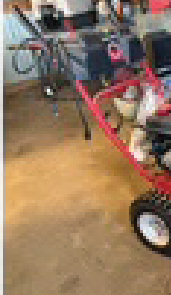
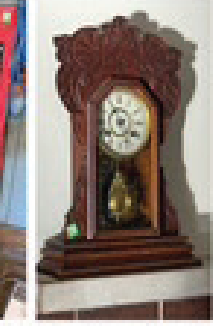
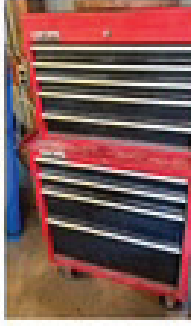
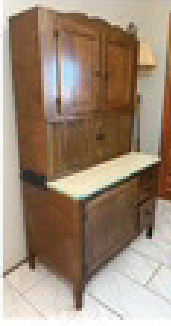
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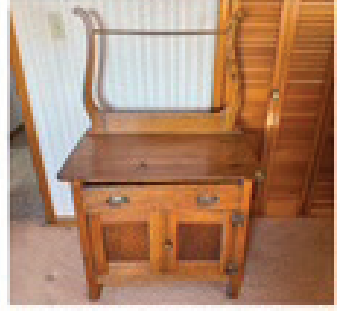
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Any announcements made day of auction shall take
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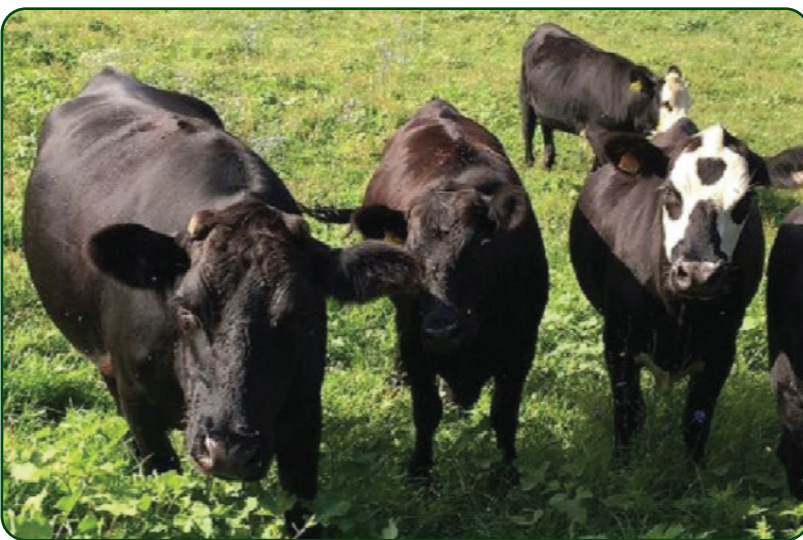


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The many ways a thriving agriculture sector is beneficial



Inflation has been a hot topic for several years running. Many businesses have been forced to raise their prices in an effort to combat a host of variables, including materials costs, labor shortages and political uncertainty across the globe.

That’s been hard on consumers’ and business owners’ pocketbooks, and precisely when inflation will simmer down remains a mystery.

Though the cost of many goods and services has skyrocketed in recent years, discussions about inflation often focus on the rising cost of groceries. According to USDA Economic Research, food prices in the United States rose 23.6 percent between 2020 and 2024.

That’s led many people to cut back on luxuries like dining out. As people dine out less, they may be looking to expand their culinary horizons at home, and that goal is best achieved when the

agricultural sector is put in position to meet consumer demands. Indeed, that link is just one of the many ways that a thriving agricultural sector benefits everyone.

• A strong agricultural sector greatly benefits the economy. Job creation is widely cited as a pathway to economic recovery, and a well-supported agricultural sector can create millions of jobs. The agricultural tech firm Sabanto estimates 2025 began with around 2.4 million unfilled jobs within the agricultural sector. A 2022 report from Maryville University indicated the agricultural sector contributes \$7 trillion to the U.S. economy, employing as much as 10.3 percent of the nation’s workers. The link between a thriving agricultural sector and a strong economy is undeniable, making it a worthy endeavor to support policies that prioritize agriculture.

• A thriving farm is a productive farm. Modern grocery stores offer an abundance of healthy foods, and many of those foods are grown on farms. The Farm Bureau reports that a single acre of land can grow various crops, producing as much as 50,000

strawberries or just under 2,800 bushels of wheat. Consumers who enjoy visiting grocery stores that offer an array of fresh, nutritious foods, including fruits and vegetables, should know that those options are only available when a thriving agricultural sector is prioritized.

• Farms are vital to production of other products as well. Maryville University notes a thriving agricultural sector is involved in more than just food production. IFP Energies notes that bio-based chemistry uses raw materials derived from biomass, such as plants like wheat, corn and potatoes, to produce an array of products, including inks, dyes and detergents. So it’s not just the foods people eat that can be traced to a thriving agricultural sector. Bio-based chemistry also is considered green because it promotes a reduction of the environmental impact of industrial production.

There’s no shortage of reasons to support a thriving agricultural sector. Indeed, consumers from all walks of life benefit in myriad ways when the success of the agricultural sector is prioritized.

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For more info about the State Aid to Local Agricultural Fairs Program, go to kyagr.com/marketing/county-fair-program.html.



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Fast facts about 4-H

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

What is 4-H?

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

Who started 4-H?

The organization began in Iowa, where it was founded by school superintendent Oscar Benson. Benson was a leader in teaching demonstrations, and wanted to share this method of learning with young people as much as possible. In

1909, he was using a three-leaf clover pin to represent head, heart and hands as an achievement award for farm boys and girls. Benson later worked with the Office of Farm Management in the U.S. Department of Agriculture and brought his clover. Benson ultimately engineered the first state college-federal agreement for the promotion of rural youth club work.

Is 4-H just for farming communities?

While 4-H was originally conceived to introduce youth to agricultural work, it is not exclusively an agricultural organization. 4-H continues to offer animal and plant science projects, but also has expanded to offer a wide range of programs in areas like arts and crafts, civic engagement, STEM, and healthy living. 4-H now reaches youth in urban, suburban and rural communities



across the country. Through the website www.4-h.org, interested parties can find their own local 4-H offices to get started. The program is delivered by Cooperative Extension, which is a community of more than 100 public universities across the nation.

Who is eligible for 4-H?

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

What benefits come from 4-H participation?

The organization says their life-changing programs help kids and teens learn skills and abilities to be resilient, adaptable and ready for work and life. According to the program, 4-Hers are more likely to feel competent, make

healthy choices, contribute positively to their communities, and feel positive about their well-being.

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



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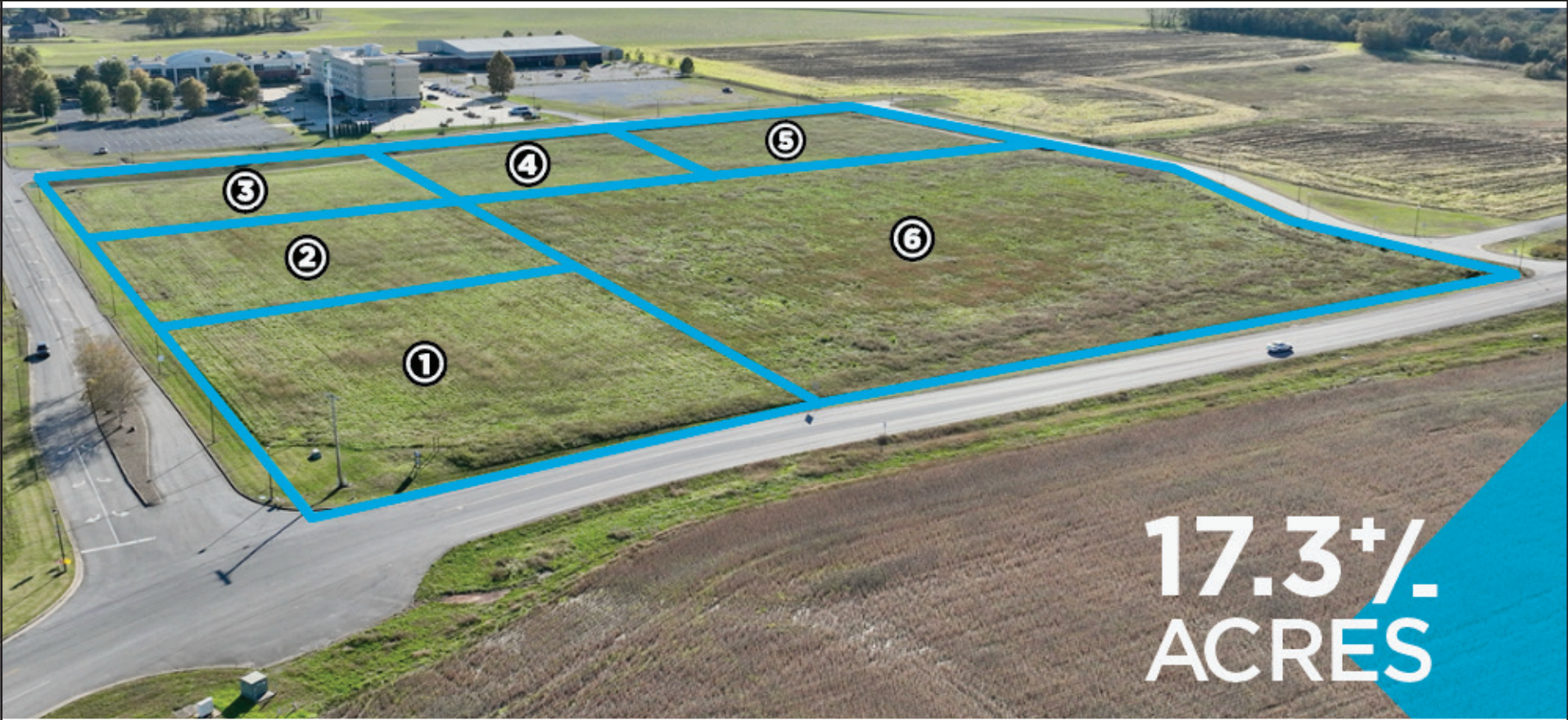
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- TRACT 2

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- TRACT 3

1.517+/- acres corner lot
- TRACT 4

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- TRACT 5

2.991+/- acres corner lot
- TRACT 6

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.5+/- miles from Fort Campbell Blvd (Hwy 41A)

This area of Western Kentucky has experienced major growth with the addition of medical facilities, industrial development, shopping, dine-in and QSR restaurants, lodging, entertainment, dealerships, supply houses, distribution, convenience stores and fuel stations, higher education and the new public high school.



Kentucky-specific winter farming tips

With winter fast approaching, here are some Kentucky-specific winter farming tips to help protect crops, livestock, and soil during our cold, often wet winters:

Crop & Field Management

1. Plant the Right Cover Crops

Kentucky winters are unpredictable—cold snaps, warm spells, and plenty of moisture. Good cover crops help protect soil and boost spring yields.

Best options for KY:

Cereal rye – very hardy, great for erosion control

Winter wheat – good for grazing and soil protection

Crimson clover or hairy vetch – adds nitrogen

Radishes/turnips (if planted early fall) – helps break up compaction

2. Soil Testing & Lime Application

Winter is ideal for lime since it takes months to adjust pH.

Get soil samples done before the ground freezes.

Apply lime on fields that will be planted with corn or vegetables in spring.

3. Manage Field Drainage

Kentucky often deals with soggy winters.

Clean drainage ditches and tile outlets

Repair erosion channels

Consider adding grassed waterways

Vegetable & Garden Production

4. Extend Growing with High Tunnels

Kentucky is one of the leading states for high-tunnel vegetable production.



Grow hardy winter crops: spinach, kale, carrots, lettuce, bok choy

Add low-tunnel row covers inside high tunnels for extra cold protection

Vent on warm days to prevent disease buildup

5. Mulch Perennial Beds

For garlic, berries, asparagus, fruit trees: Add straw or wood chips after the first freeze

Protects roots from freeze-thaw cycles common in KY

Livestock Care

6. Winter Feeding Strategy

Unpredictable winter weather means forage quality varies.

Test hay for protein and energy

Supplement with grain or tubs if needed

Keep hay dry—use rings, feeders, or tarps

7. Provide Windbreaks & Shelter

Kentucky wind chills can get severe.

Permanent sheds or natural windbreaks (tree lines, hedges)

Portable windbreak panels for cattle

8. Water Supply Management

Frozen water sources = lost time and animal stress.

Use heated troughs or de-icers

Check lines daily for freezes

Keep hydrants insulated

Small Farm & Homestead Tips
9. Protect Chickens & Goats

Deep-litter method for warmth and insulation

Ensure good ventilation to prevent moisture buildup

Use heated waterers to avoid freezing

10. Schedule Winter Maintenance

Winter downtime is perfect for:

Equipment repair

Fence tightening

Building/repairing raised beds

Planning crop rotations

Kentucky-Specific Weather Considerations

Kentucky winters often bring:

Freeze-thaw cycles → soil movement & heaving

Heavy rainfall — erosion risk

Sudden temperature drops — livestock stress

Late frosts — protect early spring seedlings

Plan with flexibility—January can feel like April, and March can feel like January.

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FARMERS' Quarterly

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How to build stronger rural communities

Small towns and rural communities may not always get the attention they deserve, and it's easy for their needs to be eclipsed by larger cities. Small town needs are ever-changing and unique to their respective locations.

While some rural communities have experienced a downward trend between 2010 and 2020, the numbers are complex and not universally applicable. Still, many of these areas can use help, as they are facing steep population declines, according to FWD.us. This bipartisan political organization says in the last 20 years departures from rural counties outweighed new arrivals by 700,000 people.

Empowering rural communities and helping them grow comes down to some key areas of focus.

- Create a walkable Main Street. Planning boards can carefully consider where well-thought-out development should go. While it's important to maintain the integrity of the rural



community without too much building, having a walkable and attractive town center where businesses can thrive is key. Families can live close by to daily destinations, and this may encourage more people to relocate to or stay in these areas, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

- Help for farmers. Government officials need to hear more about the challenges farmers face. Tom Vilsack, former Iowa governor and the

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture during the Obama and Biden administrations, says programs like the Climate Smart Commodities Program can help farmers. This program pays farmers a premium for using sustainable agriculture tools, or practices that make use of innovative farm products that produce renewable energy. Farms that work efficiently and lower the burden of labor on farmers are a boon for rural communities. U.S. Department of Agriculture

statistics indicate the majority of farmers in the United States have to supplement their incomes with off-farm jobs because smaller farms simply can't keep up to make ends meet. Fighting for policies that keep more money going to small farms can strengthen rural communities.

- Improve infrastructure and resources. Rural communities need access to the right resources in order to thrive. Improving

access to high-speed internet, for example, can bring new business and educational initiatives to rural areas and small towns. Lenders can be more receptive to local entrepreneurs to help stimulate economic growth and job creation in these communities, according to the professional development group StrengthenND. Priority also should be given to improving roadways so residents can safely get to and from homes, stores and businesses.

- Protect open spaces. Rural communities can rally to protect the landscape and help preserve open spaces. Focus also should be placed on providing places for recreation, and not only for local residents. Such features can make smaller towns more appealing to tourists, which in turn can increase investments in the local economy.

Small towns and rural communities can use certain strategies to foster growth and sustainability.

University of Kentucky research collaboration links key corn protein to stronger, longer-lasting seed



UK Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment researchers are helping lead the way to find how a single genetic change helps protect corn seeds during storage.
Photo by Matt Barton

By Jordan Strickler

Lexington, Ky.— A new international study co-led by the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment shows how a single genetic change helps protect corn seeds during storage. This offers plant breeders a clear target for developing varieties that stay vigorous longer and waste fewer seeds.

The research, published in The Plant Cell, focuses on a damaged protein repair enzyme called ZmPIMT1. The study showed how natural changes in the regulatory region of the gene encoding the enzyme — the DNA “on/off” region that controls how much of the enzyme’s RNA, and then protein, is made — affect seed aging tolerance in corn. The team found that

some corn lines carry a version of this region that turns ZmPIMT1 on more strongly, helping seeds better survive the stress of long-term storage and harsh conditions. For Bruce Downie, professor in the Department of Horticulture at Martin-Gatton CAFE and a leading member of UK’s seed biology group, the work

see **CORN**
page B5

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2008 INTERNATIONAL PAYSTAR 5600, Good truck, runs excellent, 246,781 miles, 6x6, transfer case, nice bed, double frame, rear differential lock, air seat, air gate. Salvage title due to cab fire, cab has been replaced.
Stk. #08PAY6X6TADUMP **\$45,000**



2017 FREIGHTLINER 114SD, Nice truck, runs excellent, 407,184 miles, air seat, double frame, full locking rears, nice ox bed, air gate, electric tarp, cruise, 410 HP, Tuffrac suspension, A/C, DD13 engine, tandem rear axles.
Stk. #17SD407TADUMP **\$60,000**



2012 PETERBILT 348, Nice truck, runs perfect, clean truck, air gate, electric tarp, air seat, differential lock, double frame, dual steerable air lift axles, new bed, 504,804 miles, 370 HP.
Stk. #12PETE504QUADDUMP **\$65,000**



2006 MACK GRANITE CV713, Nice truck, runs excellent, air seat, air brakes, double frame, air gate, electric tarp, differential lock, nice bed, 512,478 miles, 380 HP, 16 ft body length, tarp.
Stk. #06CV512TADUMP **\$40,000**



2009 PETERBILT 340, Good truck, low miles 94,038, nice hard steel bed, air gate, tarp, full locking rears, air seat, double frame, tilt/tele, 330 HP, PACCAR engine, 8LL speeds, Air Trac suspension
Stk. #09PETE94TADUMP **\$44,000**



2020 INTERNATIONAL LT, Very nice truck, fleet maintained, excellent shape, runs and drives perfect, smart steering wheel, power windows, power mirrors, heated mirrors, dump valve, diff lock, air seat, 80/100 fuel tanks.
Stk. #20LT554TADC **\$17,000**



2018 PETERBILT 579, Good truck, runs and drives excellent, fleet maintained, air seat, very nice truck, power windows, power mirrors, heated mirrors, differential lock, dump valve, A/S 5th, cruise, tilt/tele, 590,561 miles.
Stk. #18MX590579DC **\$22,000**



2020 KENWORTH T680, Very nice truck, fleet maintained, no rust/southern ran truck, air seat, air brakes, tilt/tele, power windows, power mirrors, heated mirrors, super nice truck, 455 HP, 535,821 miles.
Stk. #20MX535T680DC **\$28,000**



2010 INTERNATIONAL LONESTAR, Very nice truck, runs excellent, power windows, power door locks, sliding fifth wheel, cruise control, engine brake, dump valve, 11R24.5 rubber, lots of chrome, 485 HP.
Stk. #10ISX642LONEDC **\$35,000**



2012 VOLVO VNL641300, Starts, runs, drives, air seat, power windows, power mirrors, heated mirrors, tilt/tele, 405 HP, differential lock, 10 speed, Eaton-Fuller transmission, air ride suspension.
Stk. #12D13747VNLDC **\$9,000**



2021 VOLVO VNR641300, Very nice truck, fleet maintained, runs excellent, air seat, tilt/tele, differential lock, dump valve, power windows, power door locks, power mirrors, heated mirrors, cruise control, auto transmission.
Stk. #21AV548VNRDC **\$25,000**



2019 FREIGHTLINER CASCADIA 126, Very nice truck, runs excellent, clean, air seat, air brakes, fleet maintained, differential lock, dump valve, power windows, power mirrors, A/S 5th, 450 HP, air ride suspension.
Stk. #19DET453CASDC **\$23,000**



2022 VOLVO VNR641300, Very nice truck, fleet maintained, runs excellent, air seat, tilt/tele, differential lock, dump valve, power windows, power door locks, power mirrors, heated mirrors, cruise control.
Stk. #22AV498VNRDC **\$30,000**



1996 PETERBILT 379, Good truck, runs excellent, air seat, dual exhaust, sliding 5th wheel, differential lock, dump valve, clean truck, 475 HP, 10 speed, air ride suspension, Caterpillar engine 3406E.
Stk. #96CAT379DC **\$25,000**



2017 MACK PINNACLE CXU613, Good southern ran truck, not rusty, runs and drives excellent, air seat, air brakes, differential lock, dump valve, power windows, power mirrors, heated mirrors, tilt/tele, well maintained truck.
Stk. #25ATRO397DUMP **\$22,000**



2025 ATRO 34 FT X 102 IN, New 2025 34 ft dump trailer, high lift gate, built with air hard ox steel, 13,337 empty weight, external cylinder/no doghouse for easier dumping capabilities, front ladder, led lights. 12% PET TBP
Stk. #25ATRO397DUMP **\$35,000**



2016 TRAILSTAR 39 FT, Good trailer, 2 speed landing gear, 2 way gate, dump valve, two way gate, two speed landing gear, all steel wheels, fixed axle type, 80,000 lb. gross vehicle weight.
Stk. #16TSTAR397DUMP **\$22,000**



2001 TRAVIS 37 FT, Nice trailer, good shape, roll tarp, air gate, air ride suspension, all steel wheels, tandem rear axles, fixed axle, aluminum, two speed landing gear.
Stk. #01TRAV705DUMP **\$15,000**



2006 LUFKIN 24 FT, Good trailer, good shape, good tires, tarp, air gate, front ladder, frameless frame type, all steel wheels, tandem rear axles, center point suspension, tandem rear axles.
Stk. #06LUF24DUMP **\$15,000**



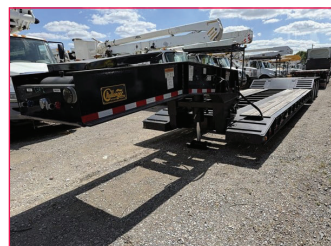
2015 JET 42 FT, Nice trailer, excellent shape, good roll tarp, good doors, nice wagon, two speed landing gear, two hoppers, front and rear ladders, air ride suspension, aluminum wheels.
Stk. #15JET844HOPPER **\$22,000**



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



2013 CEI PACER 40 FT, Nice trailer, good augers, good tires, excellent shape, tandem rear axles, fixed axle, aluminum, air ride suspension, aluminum wheels.
Stk. #13PACEFEED **\$25,000**



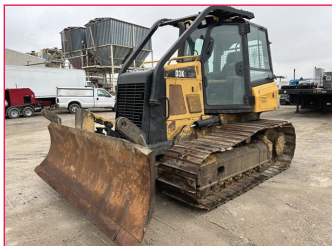
2025 WITZCO CHALLENGER 49 FT X 102 IN, New 52 ton low boy trailer, 23 ft well, chain tie downs, D-rings, Honda pony engine, chain/binder storage, ground bearing detach, factory warranty, 12% FET tax TBP with purchase.
Stk. #25WIT193RG52 **\$46,000**



1973 ROGERS 42 FT, Nice trailer, good tires, well built, 20 ft well, requires wet kit to detach, ground bearing detach, 35 ton payload capacity, tie downs, wood floor, all steel wheels, tandem rear axles, 85,100 GVW.
Stk. #73ROG18BLOW **\$13,000**



2009 UTILITY 48 FT X 102 IN, Good trailer, good shape, closed tandem, steel composition, air ride suspension, wood floor, tandem rear axles, fixed neck, spread axle.
Stk. #09UTIL603FLAT **7,000**



2015 CATERPILLAR D3K2 LGP, Nice machine, runs and operates excellent, clean cab, tight blade, ROPS, joystick operator control, powershift transmission, heat and A/C
Stk. #15CATD3KDOZ **\$43,000**



2006 CATERPILLAR DSN XL, New set of tracks and rails included in price, nice machine, runs and operates excellent, three speed, powershift transmission, ROPS, lever operator controls, cloth seat material.
Stk. #06CATD5NDOZ **\$42,000**



2016 CATERPILLAR D3K2 LGP, Machine runs and operates excellent, screen on dash not working, gauges work. Was told 4500 h ours but have no record due to dash screen not working, ROPS, open interior, joystick operator.
Stk. #16CATD3KDOZ **\$42,000**



2011 DEERE 310J, Nice machine, runs and operates excellent, good buckets, good shape, 4x4 works, outriggers, ROPS, excavator style operator controls, 4WD, standard batter type, combo transmission.
Stk. #11JD310HOE **\$30,000**



2016 HYUNDAI ROBEX 140 LC-9A, Good machine, runs and operates excellent, low hours, good air conditioning, standard battery, 3,911 hours, ROPS, enclosed interior.
Stk. #19HYUN140EXC **\$45,000**



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A black and white photograph of a cow's head, looking slightly to the right. The cow has a dark coat and a prominent white blaze on its face. The image is positioned at the bottom of the page, below the registration information.

Preserving Kentucky's deer: University of Kentucky, Kentucky Fish and Wildlife study Chronic Wasting Disease

University of Kentucky faculty and students are partnering with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and landowners to track deer populations

By Bailey Vandiver

Like thousands of Kentuckians, a team from the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) is on the lookout for deer. But once caught by researchers, these deer are allowed to return to their Western Kentucky populations — with a GPS collar to help understand movement patterns and predict the potential spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).

CWD is a brain disease that affects deer and other cervids. There is no cure, and the disease is always fatal — though deer can be infected for years and spread the infection through direct contact or environmental contamination before showing symptoms. Affecting neurological function, symptoms include decreased body condition, which is where the name “wasting” comes from, as well as behavioral changes toward people and other deer, confusion or nervousness, and repetitive movements. As of Oct. 29, 2025, KDFWR has confirmed two cases of



A team of UK Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment and Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife researchers capture and release deer in Ballard County, Kentucky, on Friday, Feb. 14, 2025. Photo by Kristopher Chappel

CWD in wild deer in Kentucky, including one in the 2025 hunting season. Tracking how deer move can help researchers understand how CWD might spread, which shapes response plans. Martin-Gatton CAFE Department of Forestry and Natural Resources (FNR) faculty John Cox, professor of wildlife and conservation biology, and Matthew Springer, associate Extension professor of wildlife management, are the co-principal investigators for the UK and KDFWR project. This work is supported by a \$226,000 award from KDFWR. “We’re working to come up with surveillance protocols and management

strategies to help preserve the resource that white-tailed deer are in our state, as well as the potential for public health knowledge with a disease that’s not necessarily an immediate threat but could be in the future,” Springer said.

Studying deer dispersal patterns
Capturing a deer takes planning, patience and — sometimes — a helicopter.

Over the course of the two-year study, 120 GPS collars will be deployed. Capture methods include a combination of helicopter net-gunning, clover traps and drop nets to track deer movements.

“There’s a lot of patience involved — a lot like hunting,” said Haley Taylor, an FNR graduate student. “Sometimes you get something, sometimes you don’t.”

Now a UK graduate research assistant, Taylor began this project, which is her master’s thesis, while working for KDFWR. “I’m originally from Kentucky, and I love it here, and I’ve gotten the privilege to work at every corner of the state,” Taylor said. “The diverse landscape that we have in the state and the ability to do all these different things in one area is amazing.”

A team from UK and KDFWR gathered in February in Western Kentucky for a multi-day operation.

During a helicopter capture, the helicopter hovers over a forested area, “rustling” up the deer so researchers can see them. When it’s close enough, the helicopter deploys a “rocket” net that covers the deer.

For a drop net capture, the team chooses a location and sets up a net, with a line attached to a trigger pole. Later, on-site researchers use thermal cameras to watch and pull the line when deer move under the net.

No matter how the deer is captured, a member of the research team is prepared with a bag that includes a collar, sampling materials and a data sheet.

“We’ve done a lot of the work on the front end with the help of our technicians and other students,” said Taylor, who manages the collection and analysis.

The researcher follows an immobilization protocol for the deer, including checking vitals and taking a blood sample. Then the researcher puts a thin collar on the deer and releases it back into the population unharmed, with minimal disruption to its normal life.

Researchers then track deer movement in relation to varying landscapes and populations, allowing them to study dispersal patterns. Insights from this research help predict both CWD spread and response to weather

events.

A partnership that prepares future professionals

Through this and other projects with KDFWR, UK undergraduate and graduate students get hands-on experience with professional biologists that complements classroom learning.

“Actually seeing it in practice done by the state agency that’s in charge of managing this resource is something that’s really hard to emulate in a classroom,” Springer said. “We’re lucky enough that the state agency recognizes that.”

Joe McDermott, now the deer program coordinator for

KDFWR, earned his master’s in forestry from UK.

“We’ve got a great partnership with UK, and we’re trying to continue to build on that and get some good work done,” McDermott said.

As a manager for more than 10 years, McDermott has hired for many positions. His number one piece of advice for students who want to be biologists or in related roles: Get out and get some experience.

“It’s a fun job. I don’t generally hate Mondays,” McDermott said. “But at the same time, it’s a very competitive field, and it’s a pretty intense field. If there’s anything you can do to set yourself apart from others and help you get going, that is going to be beneficial for you.”

Thanks to networking and leadership opportunities throughout this project, Taylor said she is ready for what comes next.

“I feel extremely prepared,” she said. The CWD project will continue through at least 2027.

Find more UK and KDFWR resources about Chronic Wasting Disease at <https://forestry.mgcafe.uky.edu/cwd>.



Members of the UK Martin-Gatton CAFE and KDFWR team study a deer during a helicopter capture in Ballard County, Kentucky, on Friday, Feb. 14, 2025. Photo by Kristopher Chappel

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CORN,
from page B1

speaks directly to a simple reality: modern life runs on seeds.

“Roughly 70% of the human diet comes directly from seeds, and much of the rest depends on animals fed on seeds,” Downie said. “We eat them, wear them as cotton, ferment them into beverages and fuel. If seed lots fail, the costs hit farmers, companies and consumers all the way down the line.”

The study, conducted with in part with professor Tianyong Zhao at Northwest A&F University in China, Zhao’s associate, professor Yumin Zhang, identifies two main versions of the ZmPIMT1 regulatory region across diverse corn lines. One version drives high levels of ZmPIMT1 mRNA production, while another carries a large DNA insertion that lowers expression and, consequently, weakens seed performance under aging stress. Seeds with more ZmPIMT1

protein kept higher germination percentages and produced healthier seedlings after accelerated aging tests, a standard measure of seed storability.

The ZmPIMT1 cellular repair crew

Over time, normal chemical reactions twist and damage proteins inside dry seeds, including proteins needed as soon as the seed takes up water and starts to germinate — the period in which the plant starts to grow again after being quiescent. Instead of discarding those damaged proteins and rebuilding them from scratch, ZmPIMT1 helps flip faulty pieces back into working shape. That saves energy and keeps critical systems running during the first hours of germination.

ZmPIMT1 is a “repair helper” in seeds that watches over a protein called PABP2, which helps choose which stored messages get turned into new proteins when a seed wakes up

and takes in water. If PABP2 is damaged and not fixed, the seed can’t make important proteins fast, so it loses vigor. When a seed has more ZmPIMT1, PABP2 works better, and the seed can handle aging and still sprout strong.

“This reinforces what seed biologists call ‘Job’s rule,’” Downie said. “If you want a seed to survive dry storage, you must protect and repair the machinery of protein synthesis. This work shows that in corn, ZmPIMT1 is a major part of that protection.”

To study the importance of ZmPIMT1, the researchers used multiple approaches. Corn lines with reduced ZmPIMT1 showed poorer performance after aging. Lines with elevated ZmPIMT1 held up better in harsh storage tests.

Downie says the findings can give breeders and seed companies a concrete genetic marker to track as they strive to breed ever more resilient seeds.

“Seed producers

invest heavily to deliver hybrids that farmers trust,” Downie said. “If a batch loses vigor in storage, that means lost germination percentages, replanting costs and is frustrating for farmers. Choosing lines with the stronger ZmPIMT1 promoter is a practical step toward seed lots that stay reliable.”

The study also highlights the strength of the cross-disciplinary group of scientists from Martin-Gatton CAFE and the College of Arts and Sciences that make up UK’s seed biology group. They study how seeds develop, survive drying, resist damage and complete germination to produce new plants — work that connects molecular biology to food security, conservation and agricultural resilience.

“Many people never think about what keeps a seed alive from harvest to planting,” Downie said. “Our group does, every day. This collaboration shows

how basic science at the cellular level can point directly to tools that support farmers and safeguard the food supply.”

To learn more about the seed biology group, visit <https://seedbiology.mgcafe.uky.edu/>.

This material is based upon work that is supported by the National Institute of

Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Hatch Project under award number 1019088. 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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What consumers can do to support local farmers

A strong agricultural sector is vital to a healthy economy. Turbulence has affected local and national economies in recent years, and the global economy has endured its own ups and downs during that span.

Though there's no one-size-fits-all solution to economic struggles, consumers can make a difference by supporting local agricultural producers. A 2022 report from researchers at Maryville University indicated roughly 10 percent of workers across the United States were employed in the agricultural sector, which the



report also noted contributes \$7 trillion annually to the national economy. Job creation and economic output are

two major reasons to support local farmers, and consumers can do that in various ways.

- Shop local. The shop local movement can make a notable impact on local economies, and it affects more businesses than brick-and-mortar stores on Main Street. Locally owned restaurants and grocers often source their foods from local farmers, so patronizing such businesses supports those who set up shop on Main Street as well as the farmers who stock their shelves and pantries.
- Purchase seasonal foods. The organization Green America, which offers advice on how environmen-

tal sustainability produces stronger economies, notes that purchasing seasonal foods is a great way to support local farmers. Farmers grow seasonal foods throughout the year to take advantage of natural conditions. Consumers who alter their purchasing habits with the seasons by buying foods that are in-season are likely supporting local agricultural producers. Read product labels to determine where foods are coming from. Non-seasonal foods are likely imported from far away, which has a detrimental impact on the environment and local economies.

- Buy directly from local farms. Most

consumers purchase their food from grocery stores near their homes, but it might be possible to purchase directly from local farmers. Farmers may utilize e-commerce tools to sell directly to local residents, and might even offer delivery services that are more convenient than driving to the nearest chain grocery store.

- Act as an advocate for local producers. Consumers have considerable power, and that power can be exercised in numerous ways. Supporting restaurants that source foods from local farmers is one way consumers can exercise their power. But consumers also can advocate for local farmers by supporting legislation and candidates that prioritize building and supporting a strong local agricultural sector. Consumers also can advocate for local farmers by sharing their experiences via social media, word-of-mouth recommendations or writing positive reviews through aggregators like Google Reviews.

A thriving agricultural sector benefits local economies, and consumers can do much to support the farmers who operate in their towns.



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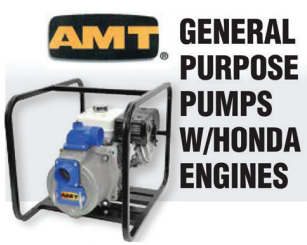
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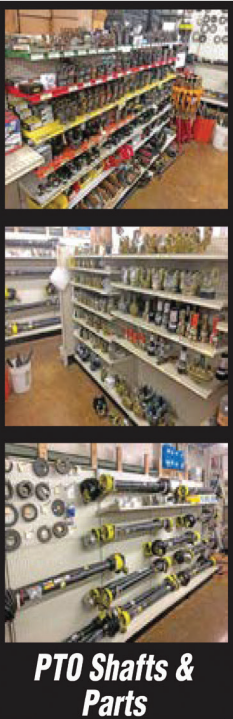
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Using drones to protect Kentucky corn: UK researchers lead precision agriculture study

Plant pathology and agricultural engineering specialists are testing drone-based fungicide applications in the treatment of foliar corn diseases, such as gray leaf spot, at the UK Research and Education Center. Recommendations will be shared during a hands-on workshop in February.

By Jennifer Elwell

PRINCETON, Ky.—The University of Kentucky Research and Education Center aims to optimize drone-based spray systems to improve access to effective management of foliar diseases in Kentucky cornfields.

This multi-departmental effort of Plant Pathology and Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering at the UK Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment has completed year two of its study, supported by the Kentucky Corn Growers Association, and plans to share the results with farmers through a workshop in late February.

According to plant pathology specialist and principal investigator Kiersten Wise, their previous research found that drones are a viable fungicide application option for farmers, especially in smaller fields that cannot be accessed by manned aircraft due to trees or other obstacles. If left untreated, corn foliar diseases can cost Kentucky corn growers nearly \$15 per acre.

“Our 2019 on-farm research conducted with Cooperative Extension agents in

several counties indicated that foliar fungicides applied by a drone at tasseling and early silking can effectively manage gray leaf spot in corn when using recommended spray carrier volumes,” Wise said. “Once we learned that drone fungicide applications can be effective at managing foliar diseases, we had even more questions about how to optimize these applications.”

Improved technology and an increase in demand for commercial drone fungicide applications prompted Wise and precision agriculture specialist Tim Stombaugh to determine how drones compare to traditional high-clearance ground-driven spray equipment and how factors like flight speed and height influence spray coverage and deposition.

“Just in the last couple of years, the amount of corn acres that are sprayed by drones has exploded,” Wise said. “Farmers who may have contracted high-clearance equipment or helicopters and airplanes to apply fungicides are now using drones. And this is not just in Kentucky. It’s a national trend.”

Measuring spray

width and pattern accuracy

Wise said they want to ensure that farmers and commercial drone applicators get the best return on investment for these types of applications.

Stombaugh explained that maximum sprayer swath widths are provided for each type of drone, but there is limited replicated research data on the reliability of these recommendations.

“Our research has shown that the actual swath width, or how much corn the drone covers in each pass, might be different than what the manufacturer says,” Stombaugh said. “Swath width is also going to be based on factors such as application speed and height, and environmental factors such as wind speed, and that’s really important information to convey to farmers and applicators.”

Stombaugh said that while drone applicators may be trying to maximize the swath width of their drone application, they might not be getting spray deposition and coverage across the entire swath. They also found that the spray pattern can shift at wind speeds of 5 miles per hour or below.

“Even at low wind

speeds, we sometimes see the spray deposition on the corn ear leaves can shift, which can also affect efficacy,” Stombaugh said. “Those are some of the things that we’ve looked at and are trying to relay to farmers. Swath width and the pattern accuracy can be affected by a lot of different factors.”

“Preliminary research from our program comparing drone versus ground-applied fungicide applications did indicate that both application methods provided similar levels of disease control and yield response, although disease pressure was low in these trials,” Wise said. “Understanding how drone fungicide application parameters affect disease development will aid farmers in setting up their own drones and improve commercial applicator efficacy by providing optimized settings for application.”

Research trials were established at the UK Research and Education Center in Princeton in 2024 and 2025. To compare the effect of spray application method on treating disease, fungicide was applied to corn plots via drone or ground application

methods, and the spray solution deposited on corn ear leaves was measured.

Wise said that although the ground sprayer application of fungicide resulted in greater spray coverage compared to drone application, a greater amount of the spray solution was deposited onto the corn leaves with the drone application. Both application methods reduced disease where it was present.

Video of the research trial at the UK Research and Education Center in Princeton.

Sharing the results with farmers and commercial applicators

Wise and Stombaugh conclude that fungicide applications by drones are a viable way to apply fungicide in corn, but more research is needed to ensure farmers and applicators are optimizing the applications for disease control and yield benefits.

“We need to continue to research how flight speeds and wind affect pattern distribution and swath width and determine what impact those factors have on fungicide coverage and efficacy,” Wise said.

To bring the initial recommendations for on-farm drone fungicide applications to corn farmers and

commercial applicators, Wise and Stombaugh are working with the Kentucky Agricultural Training School (KATS), a program of the Cooperative Extension Service. A hands-on workshop focused on spray pattern testing is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 26, 2026, in Princeton. Registration information can be found at <https://KATSDronePatternTesting2026.eventbrite.com>.

Wise expressed appreciation to the Kentucky Corn Growers Association for sponsoring the research that gives grain farmers more accessible options for disease control.

“Our partnership with the Kentucky Corn Growers Association has allowed us to research the factors that influence the efficacy of drone-applied fungicides,” Wise said. “Sharing replicated, field-tested results with farmers and applicators is key to helping them better manage important foliar diseases in corn.”

The full research report for “Ground-truthing Drone Fungicide Efficacy” can be found at <https://graincrops.mgcafe.uky.edu/corn>

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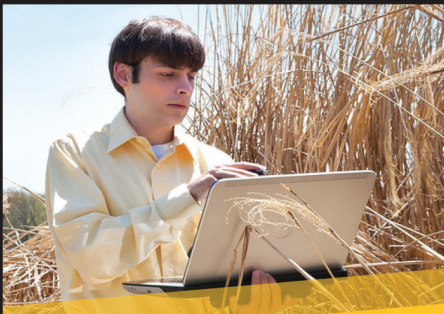
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Farmers cautiously optimistic on China's commitment to purchase U.S. soybeans

The Kentucky Soybean Association (KSA) welcomes the Trump administration's latest actions to prioritize Kentucky and U.S. soybean farmers in the recent announcement regarding U.S. – China trade. Following months of uncertainty around Chinese purchases of U.S. soybeans and other agricultural products, this positive development is encouraging news for Kentucky farm families who rely on open market access to drive soybean demand.

While details are still emerging, over the weekend the White House released a fact sheet indicating that China has agreed to purchase a minimum of 12 million metric tons (MMT) of U.S. soybeans during the last two months of 2025. That translates to about 441 million

bushels, and KSA is pleased to see the number framed as a minimum. While this is a large number, it represents less than half of China's most recent annual purchase levels.

The White House release further indicated China's agreement to purchase at least 25 MMT of U.S. soybeans in each of 2026, 2027, and 2028. China also agreed to resume purchasing U.S. sorghum and hardwood logs. In addition, China will take significant measures to end the flow of fentanyl to the United States. Specifically, China will stop the shipment of certain designated chemicals to North America and strictly control exports of certain other chemicals to all destinations in the world.

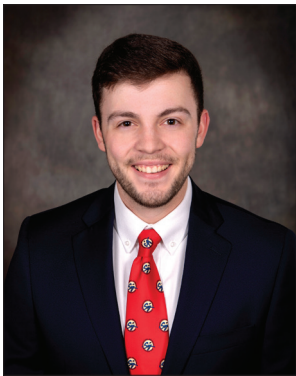
China will suspend all of the retaliatory tariffs that it has

announced since March 4, 2025. This includes tariffs on a vast swath of U.S. agricultural products: chicken, wheat, corn, cotton, sorghum, soybeans, pork, beef, aquatic products, fruits, vegetables, and dairy products.

"We need China as a market, and we are thankful that they're buying U.S. beans again," said KSA President Jonathan Reynolds, who farms near Clinton. "But this purchase, or any one purchase, isn't the magic bullet that will end the farm economy crisis. Purchase commitments don't necessarily mean real sales, like we have seen with China not meeting the purchase minimums they agreed to in the Phase One deal. We have to diversify our markets, and I for one think that keeping more U.S. soybeans here and

increasing our domestic crush for uses in the biofuels market is another step in the right direction."

Biofuels include not only biodiesel, but also renewable diesel and sustainable/ synthetic aviation fuel (SAF), all of which can be made with soybean oil. As airlines continue to work on reducing their carbon footprints, biofuels like SAF are receiving a great deal of attention globally. Strengthening biofuels policy to grow reliable domestic demand for soy is a high priority for the American Soybean Association, as is removing tariffs on inputs to reduce production costs. The high price of inputs, (seed, chemistries, and fertilizer) on top of the price of buying and repairing equipment, on top of land costs whether you own or rent –



Jonathan Reynolds

there are many variables that can affect a farmer's bottom line.

"We knew when we planted our crops that soybeans would likely be on the front lines again, and I think most of us knew it would be a rough year," Reynolds said. "No farmer I know wants to make his payments by getting a check from the government – we all want to make our money fair and square. But when the crop we grow is being used as a tool in a much larger battle to correct trade

imbalances, we don't really have much of a choice."

Looking ahead, KSA continues to work with the Administration and Kentucky's congressional delegation to ensure that these positive developments can lead to lasting market stability and stronger opportunities for Kentucky's soybean growers. This includes growing domestic demand by finalizing the EPA's 2026 Renewable Fuel Obligations, diversifying international demand through new trade partnerships, and more.

"We appreciate the Administration's work to rectify the trade situation and are looking forward to having harvest 2025 wrapped up so that we can turn our attention to a better 2026 crop and marketing year," Reynolds concluded.

AAA: It's the peak time of year for deer collisions

The average insurance damage claim for a deer collision is on the rise

Cooler weather and shorter days mean more deer are now gracing Kentucky's roadways. The number of deer-vehicle collisions increases during October and peaks in November and December. With insurance claim expenses for deer-damaged vehicles on the rise, AAA East Central cautions motorists to be especially vigilant on the road to avoid costly and potentially dangerous crashes.

"More collisions between vehicles and deer occur now than any other time of the year," says Jonathon King, vice president of Insurance sales, AAA East Central. "One of our top claims as winter approaches is for vehicles that have been totaled from hitting animals, and the costs can be staggering."

In 2024, there were more than 3,406 deer-related crashes in Kentucky, according to data from the Kentucky Office of Highway

Safety. That's up 180 from 2023 and the most reported in the last five years. Those crashes resulted in six fatalities and 22 serious injuries. Moreover, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, there are about 1 million car accidents with deer each year that kill 200 Americans, cause more than 10,000 personal injuries, and result in \$1 billion in vehicle damage.

AAA's Recommendation: Check Your Coverage.

AAA Insurance reports that its average deer-related claim in the region is about \$5,600, though costs can be much higher depending on the damage to a vehicle.

Collision coverage pays for damage to a vehicle that results from a collision with an object (e.g., a telephone pole, a guard rail, a mailbox), or because of flipping over. AAA East Central recommends motorists

opt-in for comprehensive coverage, which is for damage to vehicles covered by disasters "other than collisions" (in this case, contact with animals).

"While adding comprehensive coverage may add a small amount to your premium, it could save you money down the road," continued King.

To help prevent a crash or to reduce damage from an animal collision, AAA suggests motorists:

- Pay attention to road signs. Yellow, diamond-shaped signs with an image of a deer indicate areas with high levels of deer activity.
- Keep focused on the road. Ditching distractions is one of the easiest ways to be ready if a deer comes out of nowhere.
- Be especially attentive in early morning and evening hours. Many animals, especially deer, are most active from 5-8 a.m. and 5-8 p.m., prime



commuting times for many.

- Use high beams when there's no oncoming traffic. Animals can be spotted sooner and the light reflecting off their eyes will often reveal their location.
- Slow down and watch for other deer to appear. Deer rarely travel alone, so if there is one, more are likely nearby.
- Resist the urge to swerve. Keep both hands firmly on the wheel and don't change lanes. Swerving away from animals can confuse them so they don't know which way to run. It can also put motorists in the path of oncoming vehicles or

cause the vehicle to crash into something.

- If the crash is imminent take your foot off the brake. During hard braking, the front end of a vehicle is pulled downward which can cause the animal to travel up over the hood towards the windshield. Letting off the brake can protect motorists from windshield strikes because the animal is more likely to be pushed to one side of the vehicle or over the top of the vehicle.

In the event of a deer strike, AAA recommends:

- Call the police.
- Avoid making contact with the animal. A frightened or wounded animal can

hurt people or further injure itself.

- Put the vehicle's hazard lights on, whether it's light or dark outside.
- If possible, immediately move the vehicle to a safe location, out of the roadway, and wait for help to arrive.
- Motorists should contact their insurance agent or company representative as quickly as possible to report any damage.

AAA East Central is a not-for-profit association with 69 local offices in Kentucky, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia serving 2.7 million members. Follow us on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. AAA East Central provides services to its members including Automotive, Insurance, Discounts & Rewards, Financial, and Travel. Find out more about AAA Membership and current savings at <https://www.aaa.com/stop/>

UK-led team awarded \$1 million to cut cockroach infestations, asthma risks in affordable housing

With funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, University of Kentucky researchers aim to enhance the quality of life for residents dealing with cockroaches

By Jordan Strickler

Lexington, Ky.— More than 25 million people in the U.S. live with asthma, and cockroach allergens are a key trigger in many low-income, urban settings.

A University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment-led research team, with collaborators at Louisiana State University, has received a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Healthy Homes Technical Study award to develop a complete and durable approach to cockroach control in affordable housing. The project, “A Complete Approach to Cockroach Management in Affordable Housing Communities,” is funded by a nearly \$1 million cooperative agreement with HUD.

The study is designed to reduce allergen loads by pairing proven pest biology with resident-supported practices and procurement reforms that reward effective methods. The team will work across multiple affordable

housing communities, enrolling about 50 homes for in-home trials and pairing with surveys and laboratory testing.

“Cockroaches are common in many communities, and they are not just a nuisance,” said Zachary DeVries, principal investigator and The Bill Gatton Foundation Early-Career associate professor of entomology at UK. “Cockroach allergens can trigger asthma, especially among children. The good news is that when we effectively control cockroaches, those health risks decline. The challenge has been keeping them down over time in large, under-resourced communities. This project lets us tackle both the science and the real-world barriers so the gains last.”

The study, which began in April 2025 and will conclude in March 2028, has three objectives:

Identify why control efforts fail. Researchers will review pest-control request-for-proposal (RFP) language from housing authorities, test popular over-the-



Cockroach allergens can trigger things such as asthma, especially among children.

Photo by Matt Barton

counter “essential oil” products against German cockroaches and measure how sanitation levels affect results to pinpoint outdated specs, ineffective products and on-site conditions that undermine control.

Increase resident participation. The team will survey residents about practices such as prompt reporting, housekeeping routines and cooperation with building-wide treatments. It will test simple “nudges,” education and peer-comparison feedback

to improve adoption.

The team will evaluate liquid bait formulations — delivered as drinkable water sources containing a low-dose active ingredient — in both lab and home settings, comparing their performance and cost with that of standard gel baits to determine if liquid baits can match or exceed efficacy at a lower, more easily scalable price point.

Why the project matters “We know how to knock roaches down,” DeVries said. “This project is about keeping them down by aligning products, policies and people so homes stay healthy.”

From spring through early fall 2025, the team has focused on assembling personnel, securing regulatory approvals, refining study instruments and preparing sites and supplies. Resident surveys and laboratory screening of candidate products begin as recruitment ramps up, followed by in-home field trials that compare liquid baits with current gel-based approaches while tracking costs and implementation steps across approximately 50 households through 2026–27.

The final phase, from late 2027 to early 2028, focuses on data analysis and translation, converting results into practical guidance for housing authorities, property managers, service providers and residents, as well as outreach to the industry to support the broader adoption of effective and lasting methods.

“Our success isn’t a one-month snapshot; it’s whether families are still roach-free later on and whether housing providers can maintain that outcome with tools and budgets they already have,” DeVries said. “That is the benchmark we’re building toward.”

Research reported in this publication was supported by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as part of an award KYHHU0090-24 totaling \$999,979 with 100% funded by HUD.

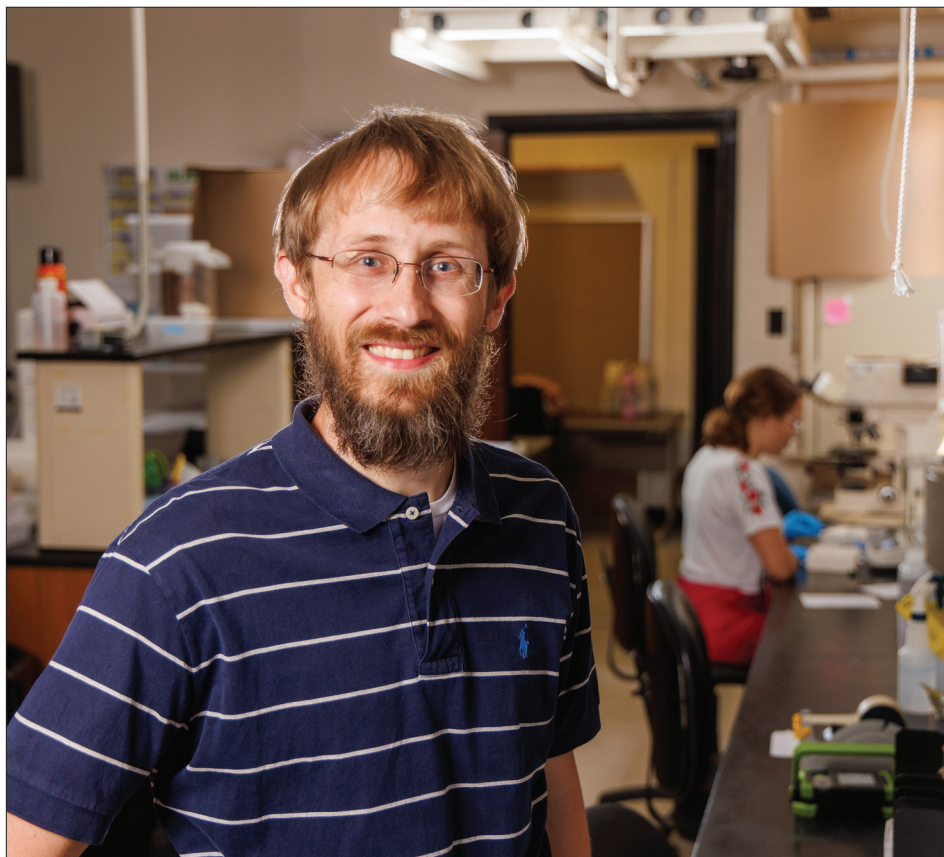
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Zachary DeVries in the lab.

Photo by Matt Barton

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Kentucky Department of Agriculture announces 2026 poster, essay contest

‘Bluegrass Roots, Agriculture Strong,’ theme focuses on state’s farming heritage

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Kentucky students are invited to enter the Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s (KDA) annual Poster and Essay Contest, Commissioner of Agriculture Jonathan Shell has announced.

The theme of the 2026 contest is “Bluegrass Roots, Agriculture Strong” encouraging contestants to illustrate in words, original artwork, or photographs how Kentucky’s heritage is reflective in its agriculture.

“Kentucky’s history is deeply rooted in agriculture. Residents can be proud of the work farmers and producers do every day to honor that history and plan for the future,” Commissioner Shell said. “By showcasing that love for our heritage in written words and beautiful art, Kentucky students can show their appreciation for what Kentucky farmers have built in our communities. This year’s contest invites students to share how Kentucky’s farming past has played a vital role for Kentucky’s future.”

Students in grades K-12 may submit a poster, an essay of 500 words or less, or a digital entry, which may be photos or original digital artwork. Each entry must include the actual written theme and be postmarked by Friday, March 20, 2026.

Winners will be notified by Friday, April 17, 2026. Winners in the poster and essay competitions will be selected in each grade. One statewide winner will be selected for digital artwork. Each winner will receive a \$100 award from Kentucky Agriculture and Environment in the Classroom and will be recognized at the



2026 Poster and Essay Contest Awards Ceremony next year. Winning entries will be displayed in

Commissioner Shell’s Frankfort office and at the 2026 Kentucky State Fair in August in Louisville.

For more information, including complete contest rules and an entry form, go to kyagr.com/marketing/poster-essay-contest.html or contact Bethany Mattingly, director of KDA’s Agriculture Education and Outreach Division, at Bethany. Mattingly@ky.gov or (502) 782-4125.

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