

Kentucky

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A HORSE NAMED
"THE PLAYER"
AND THE BOND
THAT SAVED HIS LIFE

THE KENTUCKY HEMP FORUM:
A NEW BEGINNING FOR A HISTORIC CROP

LOOKING AT WOODLANDS
FROM A CROP PERSPECTIVE

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KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU NEWS
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Cover photo by Tim Thornberry
The Player and trainer/owner William "Buff" Bradley at Crestwood Farm.

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President's

COLUMN



Just about anywhere you go across the state right now, you'll see farm families hard at work getting their crops planted in anticipation of a promising growing season. We don't always know how the season will end, but the ongoing hope is for a bumper crop with optimum weather conditions and a favorable market. In the world of horse racing, we'd call that the Triple Crown.

But what really impresses me the most about the people who live and work on the farm and in our rural communities, they are always optimistic every spring regardless of the year they had before.

Being optimistic is not always easy. It can be clouded by a host of emotions such as fear, anger, and even depression. But it can also cause us to be hopeful and excited and forward thinking as we face each new growing season.

Regardless of which end of the spectrum we end up on, there are a few constants to remember that can help no matter the situation. We live in a state rich in resources created solely for the farmer. From our commodity groups to our ag-related government agencies to the extension offices found in every county.

You can also find Farm Bureau in each of those counties with countless volunteers and leaders willing to do whatever it takes to make their local farming communities successful. Kentucky Farm Bureau is a major player in the world of agriculture advocacy, but we depend on our ag partners to help us in our endeavors to be that strong Voice of Agriculture.

In having those types of solid relationships within our agriculture community in this state, we are noticed outside our borders as a strong leader in agricultural policy. Our federal-level friends in government and in the ag industry have long-known the work being done in Kentucky.

We recently welcomed Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Under Secretary Greg Ibach, USDA Marketing and Regulatory Programs, and Administrator Martin R. Barbre, USDA Risk Management Agency to our state to participate in the first-ever Kentucky Hemp Forum hosted by Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles.

They were here to learn from the work and research that has been conducted in this state, as to make decisions on creating the rules and regulations that will be a part of the national program.

Later that same week, EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler visited to talk about environmental issues noting our efforts made pertaining to a host of issues including water resource management.

These leaders don't just randomly show up. They come because of the collective work our ag partners have done to benefit all of agriculture, everywhere.

I say all that to say this; farm families in Kentucky have the best ag network to be found anywhere, and no matter the situation at hand, they can depend on that network.

I hope they always remember this and carry with them that eternal optimism inherent in most farmers. Whether we hit the Triple Crown of farm seasons or not, Farm Bureau is here to help, as are all the other ag organizations in this state. We may not always have the immediate answers to a particular issue, but we will always have your back.

Mark Haney
President
Kentucky Farm Bureau



In Kentucky, being grassroots is fertile ground for success.

With more than 70,000 family farms in Kentucky, agriculture is a vital part of the Commonwealth's culture, values and economy. Every year, farm families work together at the grassroots level to identify shared challenges and achieve common goals. Kentucky Farm Bureau reflects these challenges and goals in our policies, and we're proud to advocate for farmers across the state in everything we do. Why Farm Bureau? Because Kentucky's success depends on improved farm income, better economic opportunities, and enhanced quality of life for all.



KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU
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Kentucky Farm Bureau is a voluntary organization of farm families and their allies dedicated to serving as the voice of agriculture by identifying problems, developing solutions and taking actions which will improve net farm income, achieve better economic opportunities and enhance the quality of life for all.

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Comment

COLUMN



As we get deeper into the spring of the year, I know from experience that consumers are thinking more and more about heading to their local roadside farm markets to get the freshest of foods that begin hitting those market shelves at this time of year.

In Kentucky, we have seen such a huge diversification in our farming operations that more and more of these on-farm market places are opening up all across the state.

With that said, Kentucky Farm Bureau was really ahead of the curve when it came to the local-food demand. In July 1996 the KFB Certified Roadside Farm Market program was created to help farmers sell their fruits and vegetables directly from roadside markets to consumers throughout the state.

Since then, the program has expanded to include such farm enterprises as greenhouses, landscape nurseries, orchards, produce operations, Christmas tree farms, livestock operations, fiber markets, and meat/cheese farm markets, to name a few.

Today, more than 80 of these markets dot the Kentucky landscape along with numerous other farmers' markets present in nearly every county. Consumers told us, in the agriculture industry, they wanted more locally grown goods and we are answering the call.

Through the foresight of Kentucky Farm Bureau and its Certified Roadside Farm Market program, along with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's Kentucky Proud program, we are seeing these types of venues become the "norm" in finding all the local foods and goods Kentucky farm families are growing and producing.

Markets certified through the KFB program are identified by the cornucopia logo and are listed in the Certified Roadside Farm Market Online Directory. These markets are also provided collective advertising, promotional items, educational tour opportunities, along with other marketing benefits with the intent to increase their net farm income.

Throughout its existence, the Certified Roadside Farm Market program has helped to foster a whole new atmosphere of farm-to-consumer relations helping to put fresh food and produce on the tables of those consumers.

Next year, the program will celebrate its 25th anniversary, and from a producer's standpoint, what a benefit it has been to be a part of it. But all of our farmers, working directly with consumers, do a phenomenal job and we congratulate them on that job well-done.

The hard work these producers put in on their farms and in their markets are a testament to the traditional farm family values that have been a part of our industry for generations.

But this tradition is not just exclusive to farmers. Many consumers have started their own traditions of coming back to these markets year after year to take advantage of the fresh, nutritious food grown by the best farmers in the world.

Here's to another great season for all of our Kentucky Farm Bureau Certified Roadside Farm Market members and to the customers they serve.

David Chappell

Chair

KFB Certified Roadside Farm Market
Advisory Committee



Pictured from left: USDA's Martin Barbre and Greg Ibach, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles.

KENTUCKY HEMP FORUM

State and national leaders discuss the possibilities of this “new” crop

LOUISVILLE - The 2014 Farm Bill paved the way for hemp production on a research level in this country after a long hiatus partially due to its placement on the Controlled Substance list in 1970. The 2018 Farm Bill took away legal obstacles, allowing it to once again become an agricultural commodity in the U.S.

Now the task of creating the rules and regulations that come with such production is beginning to take place, and Kentucky was the first stop federal officials made in an effort to move that process forward.

The first ever Kentucky Hemp Forum, hosted by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and Commissioner Ryan Quarles was held at the Kentucky Exposition Center on April 8, with a host of national and state leaders on hand to discuss the issues connected to industrial hemp production, and to hear from many already vested in its production.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, along with Under Secretary Greg Ibach, USDA Marketing and Regulatory Programs, and Administrator Martin R. Barbre, USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA) made up the federal panel on hand to lead the discussion from a national perspective, and to listen to several stakeholders,

including growers, processors, educators and law enforcement, about successes and challenges they have faced during the research phase of crop production.

Kentucky Farm Bureau President Mark Haney also addressed the gathering to extend the organization's support of the Farm Bill's inclusion of industrial hemp production, and the efforts being made to ensure farm families have all the information they need to begin growing this historic crop.

“Overall, I think the mood is positive when it comes to the opportunities industrial hemp will produce for our farm families across this state,” he said. *“We have already seen impressive production and economic numbers related to our research efforts up to this point. And now that the new Farm Bill takes away any legal obstacles, it will be exciting to see the progress of hemp production here, and across the country.”*

Haney participated in one of the two panel discussions held during the forum, telling the government leaders and attendees, he thinks Kentucky has the opportunity to once again lead the nation in hemp production.

“The history of hemp in Kentucky dates back to the late 1700s when early settlers grew the plant for textile use. It became so widely grown

that by the early 19th century, the Commonwealth was the leading hemp producer in the country,” he said. *“In knowing this storied history, and with the success our farm families once had with this versatile crop, it only seems reasonable that the same could be true today.”*

“We knew all along that Kentucky was a leader in being able to have a set of rules and regulations in place that could be advisory to us at USDA as we look forward to moving ahead with the national program. There's no doubt that Leader McConnell and Commissioner Quarles' leadership has put Kentucky in a great position.”

– Greg Ibach
Under Secretary, USDA Marketing and Regulatory Programs

McConnell praised the current efforts being conducted in Kentucky, but he also noted the work that lies ahead when it comes to producing hemp nationally.

"If you look at where we are on the legalization of industrial hemp, we are sort of in the 'red zone.' There are some additional steps that need to be taken and that is part of what this learning session is about," he said. "We have some work to do with the Food and Drug Administration; (and) the USDA is working on making sure crop insurance is available at the earliest possible time. So, this may require some additional legislation and I'm prepared to do my job to get us all the way into the end zone."

Barbre also noted the work that has been done by this state up to this point is commendable.

"If I had 49 other states and a few territories at the place Kentucky is right now, this project, from RMA's perspective, would be a whole lot further along," he said.

In addressing the forum attendees, Barbre spoke of the challenges ahead to set regulations that will move hemp, as a production crop forward, including that of crop insurance.

"We're working as hard as we can, as quick as we can to get this product out, but yet making sure it's viable for producers," he said.

Ibach said Kentucky has played an important role in getting rules and regulations in place to oversee the production of the crop.

"We knew all along that Kentucky was a leader in being able to have a set of rules and regulations in place that could be advisory to us at USDA as we look forward to moving ahead with the national program," he said. "There's no doubt that Leader McConnell and Commissioner Quarles' leadership has put Kentucky in a great position."

Quarles said the forum represented the first time the USDA was present outside of Washington to learn more about the hemp industry.

"When I became Commissioner, I made a promise that Kentucky would become the epicenter for industrial hemp production and processing," he said. "That promise is something we have delivered on and we are building a critical mass of growers, processors and researchers that will ensure hemp's future here in the Commonwealth."



Pictured from left: KFB President Mark Haney; Trey Riddle, CEO of Sunstrand; Tom Keene, Hemp and Research Extension at the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture Food and Environment; and UK College of Agriculture Dean Nancy Cox.



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Students visiting Montgomery County's Chenault Agriculture Center, work with the different animals as part of their ag program studies.

GETTING THE WORD OUT

Introducing high school ag education to incoming freshmen proving vital to the future of these programs

MT. STERLING - As this school year begins to wind down for most primary and secondary schools across the state, preparations for the next year have already begun, especially when it comes to scheduling.

With that in mind, agriculture educators have been hard at work informing prospective students of the opportunities they could realize through the many ag-related programs available to them.

Montgomery County FFA members and ag-education teachers recently hosted a field day for the hundreds of county eighth-grade students at the Chenault Agriculture Center, a working farm donated to the school district by the late entrepreneur Carroll C. Chenault, Jr.

For many years, perspective students have been coming to the farm for a day of activities and learning, all in an effort to introduce them to the agricultural program at Montgomery County High School (MCHS), but perhaps more importantly, to educate

them about agriculture, in general.

Jeff Arnett, an ag teacher at MCHS, is also the farm manager at Chenault. He said the 293-acre farm serves as a working lab for the ag program and classes.

"This is our learning laboratory and all the money generated from the farm goes back into the farm," he said. *"We're proud of this facility and it provides good learning opportunities for our students."*

At some point during the school year, every student in the MCHS ag program gets to come to the farm to study in a hands-on way as an extension of what they are learning in the traditional classroom.

Arnett said bringing these new students to this facility can go a long way in dispelling any misconceptions they may have about agriculture education programs and FFA.

"Having these students here for this event allows them to see and learn about the opportunities in the agriculture field," he said. *"To be honest, most people think of farming when it comes*

to agriculture, but there's more to it than that, and we offer many different types of learning in our program. This event will allow these students to see some of those different offerings we have."

Alton Stull is also an agriculture teacher at the school. He said this ag field day event is comprised of three primary components in which the students can learn more about the school's agriculture endeavors.

"We talk about the FFA side of the program and the opportunities available through that organization. We talk to them about career pathways and the actual classes offered at our school; and we let them be around the animals here on the farm, so they can see how this all fits together," he said. *"At the end of the day, we want these students to understand that agriculture is our most important industry and it is for everybody."*

Zoe Cannon and Brooke Short are both graduating seniors at MCHS, as well as FFA chapter officers. They were just two of the many ag students

present to help guide the eighth-graders through the activities of the day, to answer any questions those students had, and to share their stories about being involved in the ag program.

"We just want these students to see there is a lot more to agriculture than just being on the farm and we want to spread the word about these opportunities in our ag classes," said Short.

Cannon said she came to this event as an eighth-grader and it had a definite influence on her decisions coming into high school.

"Even though I grew up on a farm, I wasn't sure if I wanted to become involved in agriculture or FFA until I came to this event and saw the different things to do, and the opportunities it offered," she said.

Short did not grow up farming but realized how interesting the program was after making her eight-grade trip.

"The program was completely new to me and I discovered I liked working with the animals and learning about them," she said.

As with any event of this magnitude and longevity, partnerships are important. Arnett pointed out how supportive the school district has been of the ag program and the farm. He also commended Farm Bureau for their support of the program and the students.

"Farm Bureau has been so supportive of our program and, I know, other programs across the state," he said. *"They work hand-in-hand with you. If you are an ag teacher, I would encourage you to talk to your local Farm Bureau president to get them involved and they will support you any way they possibly can."*

Montgomery County Farm Bureau (MCFB) has long played a big role in this annual event by supplying and cooking food for the hundreds of students who make their way to the Agriculture Center.

MCFB President Berkley Mark said getting young people involved in agriculture is extremely important to the organization, as well as the industry.

"We work closely with the ag teachers here to help them with many of our programs that are geared toward our youth," he said. *"We also award two scholarships each year, one for an ag student continuing their ag studies, and the other to an ag student, who comes from a farming background but is choosing another field of study."*



Q&A: AGRICULTURE EDUCATION FROM A STATEWIDE PERSPECTIVE

While Montgomery County serves as a stellar example of getting the word out about the good of its agriculture program in that area, many other school districts are doing something similar for the same reasons. KFB Board Member Brandon Davis serves as the state FFA Advisor and an agriculture education consultant with the Kentucky Department of Education. He said there are many advantages for those students who become involved in ag education whether they want to farm or not.

What are some of the advantages for students, who are starting their high school careers, to participate in an ag day event, such as the recent one held in Montgomery County?

When a local agricultural education program hosts an Ag Day for students it allows everyone to gain a deeper understanding of the food and fiber industry. As students begin their high school career, they are also preparing for life after the diploma. From that initial exposure, students begin to realize that there are many more parts to agriculture. In a best-case scenario these students develop an interest in having a career in agriculture. At the very least, each student should leave with the tools to make them a more informed consumer.

Do you think prospective students still think ag programs and FFA are just for farm kids?

Local agricultural education programs are always working to help students see that they can find a home in Ag-Ed and FFA. Only about 25percent of agricultural students in Kentucky live

on a farm, which means that the vast majority of the students in an agriculture class are not the typical farm kid. Regardless of background, there are lessons each and every student can use when they are in an agriculture class. The success of agriculture's future will rely on how well we include others in our industry.

How vital are these ag day events to existing high school programs?

It is vital that high school programs find ways to engage students, parents, and communities on a regular basis. The most successful agricultural education programs in the state are those that exist both inside and outside of the walls of a classroom. While an ag day event can serve as a recruiting tool, it's really about education. Each person relies on agriculture daily, but they don't have to think about it, because the industry works so well. As far reaching as modern agriculture is, our roots will always be in production agriculture. The more we can shine a light on the road from field to fork, the better.

How important is the FFA connection to the state's agriculture programs?

FFA is a very recognizable symbol. From the blue corduroy jackets to the FFA emblem, lots of people are aware of FFA, even if they themselves had no experience with it. But it all starts with quality classroom instruction. Without agricultural education there is no FFA. FFA is inter-curricular, meaning that the content from the classroom extends into the FFA events. FFA allows students to demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and abilities that they have developed in an agriculture classroom.



A standing room only crowd came to Scott County to hear from EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler, left, and Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles.

EPA ADMINISTRATOR VISITS WITH STATE AG LEADERS AND PRODUCERS

WOTUS and other farm-related issues were discussed during stop in Kentucky

GEORGETOWN – Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Andrew Wheeler paid a visit to Kentucky last month to discuss a number of agriculture-related topics and to hear from farmers and industry representatives.

The roundtable discussion took place at the Scott County location of Meade Tractor with a standing-room-only crowd.

Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles hosted the event and said the visit demonstrates that the EPA is listening to the needs of America's farmers and rural communities.

“Administrator Wheeler is a learner and a listener, and he wants to learn more about agriculture,” he said.

And that, he has done. Wheeler joined American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall and USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue last December in Wilson County, Tennessee to discuss the new Waters of the U.S. rule. He also met with ag leaders and officials last August in Louisville during the Kentucky State Fair.

In fact, Wheeler has been traveling the country, often meeting with farmers to learn of their concerns and to share what the EPA is doing from an agricultural standpoint.

He told the gathering at the Georgetown event he felt the new WOTUS rule will stand up in the court

systems and will provide certainty about what waterways fall under the rule and what does not.

“That was our goal when I sat down with my staff from the agency. I said we need to have a regulation on Waters of the United States where any homeowner, any farmer, any home builder can stand on his or her property and be able to tell for themselves whether or not they have federal water on their property without having to hire an outside consultant or attorney,” he said. *“The regulation should be clear enough for everybody to understand what is and what is not a federal waterway.”*

The new rule does just that defining what is a federal waterway and just as importantly, what is not, added Wheeler.

“Providing that certainty to you all is so important and underpins what we are trying to do at the agency,” he said.

After making remarks, Wheeler took questions from the audience which included Kentucky Farm Bureau Second Vice President Sharon Furches. She said having the EPA Administrator as well as other high-ranking federal officials come to Kentucky to discuss agricultural issues is indicative of the strength the state's agriculture industry possesses.

“When federal officials are taking note of the work our collective ag industry is doing and the progress we are making concerning a number of issues, it speaks well to the relationships we possess here as an agriculture community,” she said.



EPA's Wheeler and Commissioner Quarles answer questions from the audience.



Administrator Wheeler and KFB Second Vice President Sharon Furches.



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FORESTRY INDUSTRY PROVIDES VALUE-ADDED OPPORTUNITIES

Looking at woodlands from a crop perspective

The picturesque Lawrence County countryside is home to Savage Farms.

When thinking of Kentucky agriculture, many crops could come to mind including corn, soybeans, wheat, and tobacco, to name a few.

But timber may not often be thought of as a crop. The fact is, 48 percent of Kentucky is forestland, and 88 percent of that forestland is privately owned, according to information from the state's Energy and Environment Cabinet.

Keith Moore of Lawrence County is one of those private owners. His 200-acre farm is home to several tree species and he has been utilizing many of those trees as a crop to produce a variety of maple syrups, including bourbon barrel-aged maple syrup.

"When we first bought this farm, I told my wife I thought we had 25 or 30 maple trees here, when in fact, we have in excess of 500 on this immediate property and more than 800 on another farm we own," he said. "We had the resources here, but just didn't know it at first."

Moore said he thinks that's true of other landowners; they just don't realize what a resource they have in their woodlands.

From a species perspective, 75 percent of the forestland in Kentucky is composed of an oak-hickory forest

type, with Red Maples being the most common individual tree species accounting for 12.2 percent of all trees in the state; a fact that makes Moore and other maple syrup producers happy. The Red Maple sap is what he depends on most to make his syrup.

"Maple syrup production in Kentucky is really exploding with at least 100 producers, and it just keeps growing," he said. "But I started this 25 years ago using milk jugs and pvc pipe, and because of that, we now have all that history to learn from and look back on."

The milk jugs have been replaced by more modern equipment, but the idea is still the same; to utilize his trees to make the best syrup he can on his farm, a place very near and dear to Moore.

Savage Farms was named after his aunt and uncle who owned the farm as he was growing up.

"I have spent so much time on this farm. I grew up here and I'm so glad I was able to buy it from them, to keep it in the family. That's why it is named for them," he said.

That heritage of the land, and those that came before him, and their traditional ways of farming are important to Moore and the way he does business.

"I've always enjoyed the old ways of doing things. We used to take the syrup and make sugar just like the Native Americans and pioneers did in this area, because that was the way they transported it," he said.

In addition to the heritage, Moore is all about the industry, as a whole, more so than just thinking about himself as an individual producer. He has helped a number of people get started in the business and was instrumental in getting the Kentucky Maple Syrup Association started.

"There are a lot of people who likely don't know how valuable of a resource they have in their woodlands," he said. "First, they will say they don't know if they even have maple trees and secondly, they're not sure they could identify them."

In addition to selling locally and through various events, Moore also sells via the internet taking his syrup from the farm into all parts of the country.

And while the maple syrup business is growing by leaps and bounds for Savage Farms, Moore grows blueberries and strawberries, as well. His newest venture is a small-farm winery in which he uses the syrup and the blueberries to make the product.

"If all goes well, we will be the only farm winery in Eastern Kentucky," he said. "I like to try different things and most of what I've learned has come from my failures. But we can't succeed at any of this unless we experience some failures."

"Because of the tremendous marketing power of this program, we see people from across the state and even from other states visiting Keith's market, and while that benefits Savage Farms, it's also an economic driver for this area."

- Sherry Compton
Lawrence County Farm Bureau
Women's Committee Chair

If the winery takes off like the maple syrup business has, failure will definitely not be a word to describe it.

Moore is a self-proclaimed research geek and has studied other areas of the country, more known for syrup production than Kentucky, and comes away with ideas that will help the industry here. He also travels to some of those states like Vermont to learn and actually teach them a thing or two. But at the end of the day, he is still a Kentucky farmer and his trees are a crop.

"When you see all these trees, everyone asks if we planted them. But I didn't plant them because it takes 20-plus years for these trees to reach production size," he said. "As you walk through the woods you'll see all these saplings coming from these maples. It's a natural process and they are such a renewable resource."

Those Red Maples that are so plentiful on Moore's farm, and many others throughout the state were once thought of as scrub trees, but times have changed, and Moore has helped lead the charge in helping people in and out of the business understand how valuable they are.

"These trees really are a valuable resource and you can tap one for years and years," he said.

And to make sure his trees remain productive, Moore drills a very small hole



Keith Moore works with some of the equipment he uses to make his maple syrup.



in the tree and actually uses a vacuum system to literally suck the sap out which helps to double his production over other conventional methods. He noted that this process to extract the sap has zero affect on the trees.

Besides his endless efforts to make his business ventures successful, Savage Farms is also a member of the Kentucky Farm Bureau Certified Roadside Farm Market program, something Moore said has been a huge help in getting the word out.

"The program has been great and there is so much support from it. They market and advertise for me, and whenever they do, it reaches across the state," he said. *"I've had people come here from all over the place including a tour bus from Alabama."*

Sherry Compton, the Lawrence County Farm Bureau Women's Committee Chair has been involved in many local events that have featured Moore and Savage Farms Maple Syrup. She said having a Certified Roadside Farm Market member in the county

helps to assure additional consumer traffic will come their way.

"Because of the tremendous marketing power of this program, we see people from across the state and even from other states visiting Keith's market," she said. "And while that benefits Savage Farms, it's also an economic driver for this area."

Moore is a bit modest when talking about his success or how it has affected local rural development efforts. But he is continually working with other local farmers, buys locally, and has helped in many local events including the region's annual Heritage Harvest Festival, a two-day driving tour throughout a two-county area which brings in countless visitors and dollars to the local economy.

"We are very blessed here and I think giving back to this community is important but also giving back to this industry which helps the whole state," he said. "I like the business aspect of all this, but it's the culture I'm proudest of. The history of all this, that's what's really cool."

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CANDID CONVERSATION



Ann and Doug Jones.

KFB Candid Conversation presents a discussion about the topical issues facing the agricultural industry and rural communities in a question and answer format. In this column, Doug and Ann Jones discuss how the timber on their Breckinridge County farm, has opened the door to a new business venture.

First, tell our readers a little about the farms?

Doug: "My dad bought a 40-acre tract of the farm in 1976 and sold the timber on it and paid it off. And any time land would come up for sale that bordered that original tract, he would buy it until eventually we had 335 acres together. Now, we do a select cut on the timber about every 10 years but there is still a lot of timber on the farm. In addition to the timber, we have a small cattle operation, but the majority of land is leased out for row crop production."

What is the story behind your business, A&D Wood Creations?

Ann: "Two years ago, for Christmas, we happened to have a piece of wood in the garage and I got to messing around

with it and made two charcuterie boards and gave them to our two daughters. I like working around the farm and just came up with this idea. After that, they started calling saying people they knew wanted one of the boards. At that point I had never thought about making them to sell. But, before I knew it, it began to grow. I really didn't have any experience. I used to work some around my dad and make things when growing up, but it was really by trial and error I began to do this. We first started working in the garage, but it became too much so, we enclosed a little wood shop to make a workshop just for this."

What kind of other products do you make?

Ann: "We now make everything from live edge charcuterie boards, serving platters, and cutting boards to larger furniture items like side tables and farmhouse dining tables. As a matter of fact, the dining table we have in our house is one we made."

What makes what you are doing so unique?

Doug: "First of all, we get all the wood we use from our farm. I will cut

down the trees we select and take them to a nearby neighbor with a small sawmill who cuts it for us. We bring the wood back here to the farm and stack it to air dry. In making and finishing each piece, no two are exactly alike because the wood in each is just a little different and unique. We hand finish all of our pieces with a hand sander. But we did just buy a drum sander and a vacuum system to make the process a little easier. And we do everything here in our workshop on the farm."

How do you sell everything you make?

Ann: "Last year we set up a booth at an art and craft show in Bardstown. We had never done anything that big before. We did do one small show before that, in Brandenburg. I was really nervous about doing it. What if I took these things and no one liked them. But we had a good reception there and in Bardstown. We were really surprised at how well we did at that show and how much people liked what we are doing. So, we did four or five shows last fall and have signed up to do more this year. We also plan to do a show in Indiana soon, so we are trying to spread out and cover different areas. Something else that has really helped is we are part of the Kentucky Proud program and we are also looking at beginning to sell online."

Do you think people sometimes missed the fact that their trees can be used as another crop?

Doug: "I think so because you're not harvesting the trees with the same frequency as you would corn or soybeans. There are those who would clear cut these forests which means it would take generations for it to grow back. If you do it correctly, and cut nothing smaller than 16 inches, you can do it every 10 years. I'm in the woods all the time and you can see



Ann Jones puts a finish on a piece of wood cut from the family farm.

when these trees are coming back. So, I know they are going to be around for generations to come."

Do you find yourself educating customers about how you make all that you do?

Ann: "When we go to the different shows, everyone wants to know how we do this and what types of wood we use. We explain air drying and cutting to size and the finishing process. We explain that we use a food-grade oil for the wood that will be used for food products. And once the oil seeps in, we cover the piece with homemade board butter, which is made with bee's wax and essential oils to condition the wood. But we learn something, too, by looking at work from other exhibitors."

What is your favorite part of this new business?

Ann: "Doug's favorite part is being in the woods and looking for that perfect tree to cut down and take to the sawmill. My favorite part is looking at a piece of wood and envisioning what it could be. Once the piece is ready, and after I apply the oil and the board butter to finish the product, I love to see the colors come out in the wood. It's amazing. When I take these to a show and get positive feedback it makes it all worth it and we really have fun doing it."



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PRECISION IS PERSONAL



A HORSE NAMED
"The Player"
AND THE BOND THAT SAVED HIS LIFE
The love between animal and owner can be a very powerful thing

FRANKFORT - The bond between a human and animal is just that, a pledge of sorts; a promise from one to the other, in many cases, to care for each other and provide the task each was meant to do for the other. No one knows that better than William "Buff" Bradley, owner and trainer at Indian Ridge Farm.

He breeds and trains thoroughbreds with long-time partner Carl Hurst and, until his passing, with his father Fred Bradley, splitting his time training at tracks in Kentucky, mainly Churchill Downs, then in New Orleans throughout the winter.

During the time he has been in the business, which has been most of his life, Bradley has developed these

special bonds with most of the horses he trains, but especially those that come from his family farm.

Some of the greats that call Indian Ridge home include Brass Hat and Groupie Doll, both well-known in the racing world, as well as very popular around their home town. But as popular as those two horses have been, there is one stallion born on the farm that has captured the attention of countless animal lovers from all over, and the hearts of the Bradley family.

"The Player" is his racing name but around the barn he is known as "Angus" and since his birth, this horse has had a personality all his own.

"This horse was bred, born and raised on our farm and he has had his little

quirks since day-one. He always wanted to sleep late and often he would sit down on his haunches like a dog, or put his head under the stall gate, or eat hay while lying flat on his back," said Bradley. *"He's just always had such a personality. He's even chased me while mowing."*

He was so quirky that Bradley took him to the Hagyard Equine Medical Institute to make sure nothing was wrong neurologically with the horse. But, after a couple of trips, the word was, Angus was just fine, and his antics were just a part of his personality.

And so, with quirks and all, Angus would train and make his way to the track where Bradley saw that this horse was a real runner; something any trainer would love to say, and something that

was putting this horse on the fast track to his own fame and fortune.

Once his racing career began, Bradley even decided to create a Facebook page for Angus complete with some of the photos of him being his quirky self on the farm and some of his results at the track.

"It looked like he was going to be a pretty nice race horse. His whole family are runners and stakes winners," said Bradley. "And we really thought last year was going to be his big, breakout year."

And from all indications, that was going to be the case. But during the New Orleans Handicap, and while leading the race, jockey Calvin Borel, pulled him up realizing something bad had happened. Bradley knew it, too. Upon making his way to the horse's side, he knew the injury was very serious. Angus had broken both front sesamoids in his right front leg, tearing tendons and ligaments, as well.

"It just broke my heart right away and we knew it wasn't good. When we loaded him on the van to take him to the barn I told him I would do all I could to save him, but he had to help me, too," said Bradley.

His vet took a look at the horse once in the barn area and told Bradley he thought the horse was a candidate for euthanasia. But Bradley was not prepared to give up. His vet also told him a doctor at the nearby LSU Equine Center could perform the operation to save him. So, Bradley took the horse to see Dr. Chuck McCauley who initially told Bradley the same thing, the horse was indeed a candidate for euthanasia.

"The thing the doctors were telling me, that the horse would be up against, was not the surgery to repair the injury itself, but the after care where you have to worry about foundering and infections," said Bradley.

Having only performed the kind of surgery Angus would need a few times, McCauley operated on the horse, a move that would eventually lead to his recovery. Bradley pointed out that trying to save the horse was always the first decision, but he knew that if Angus began to suffer in any way, a much tougher decision would have to be made.

"There were some ups and downs through it and an anticipated two-month stay turned in six months, but



"Angus" poses for the camera. Photo submitted.

"This horse was bred, born and raised on our farm and he has had his little quirks since day-one. He always wanted to sleep late and often he would sit down on his haunches like a dog, or put his head under the stall gate, or eat hay while lying flat on his back. He's just always had such a personality."

– William "Buff" Bradley
owner and trainer at Indian Ridge Farm

the one thing Carl and I made clear to Dr. McCauley and his staff was that we did not want him to suffer ever but we were going to try and do what we could for him," he said.

Bradley's emotions are evident even now when describing facing barn workers and family to deliver the initial news of the accident.

"I had to go back to the stable area that day and face our help who were all upset, and I had to call home and talk to my family, and I still tear-up now more than I did then thinking about it, knowing I had to make some tough decisions and do the right thing," he said. "There are those who don't understand what a bond the people around these horses have with them. They all work together and want the best for them. We want to win races, but we take care of the horse first."

One thing going for this horse was that quirky personality, that not only made him unique, but proved to be a strength within him, as well. Bradley said Angus knew how to take care of himself and he likely had as much to do with his recovery as anything else.

While it goes without saying that The Player's days on the track are over, he has found a new job standing stud at Crestwood Farm in Fayette County. Bradley said it is a great place and Angus seems to be very happy there. He also said how thankful he is to farm owner Pope McLean for helping make this happen.

Incidentally, The Player's Facebook popularity is growing. Bradley said he has updated friends and fans since the accident and still posts regularly.

"I try to get something posted every week and, in a way, I've been surprised at how many people are following him," said Bradley. "Social media has been a big plus for us to get information out and is a way to show how good of care we are giving these horses, and something we live to do every day. You know, when we look back and feel upset about what could have been for this horse, we're just glad he is still here with us."

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MARKETS

STATE'S TOTAL CROP VALUE DOWN IN 2018

The five principal crops produced in Kentucky had an estimated value of \$2.90 billion for 2018, down \$29 million, or 1.0 percent, from 2017's revised estimate, according to USDA-NASS's Kentucky Field Office. The most valuable crop was soybeans which were valued at \$910.6 million; this is nine percent below 2017's soybean crop value. The loss in value was due to a similar percentage drop in the average soybean price – from \$9.70 for 2017 production to a forecasted \$8.80 for the 2018 crop. Production of 103 million bushels in 2018 was one percent higher than 2017's crop. The second most valuable crop in Kentucky was corn at \$818.0 million, a two percent increase from 2017. Value increased due to a three percent rise in the corn price – from \$3.69 in 2017 to \$3.80 in 2018 – and a onepercent drop in crop size. The third most valuable crop in Kentucky was All Hay (baled) at \$764.6 million, up \$140.6 million, or 23 percent from 2017. A nearly 24 percent increase in price – from \$131 per ton in 2017 to \$162 per ton – accounted for the sharp increase in the value of the hay crop. Hay production declined 1.6 percent in 2018. Interestingly, as All Hay value increased 23 percent, the All Tobacco value declined 23 percent in 2018 as production fell 27 percent. In

its distant fourth-place position, 2018 tobacco production was only valued at \$301.6 million, compared to 2017's \$391.3 million. The preliminary average price for 2018 is \$2.245 per pound, up 11 cents or 5.2 percent from the prior year. Wheat remained in fifth place at \$102.0 million, down nine percent from 2017. Compared to the 2017 crop, 2018 wheat production was down 17 percent with an average price 10 percent higher.

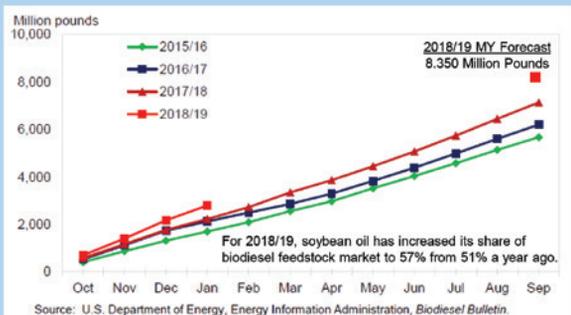
HAY YIELDS VARY GREATLY IN KENTUCKY

The Kentucky Field Office of USDA-NASS recently released 2018 hay production data by county (for counties with adequate producer data). In the "all other hay" category, the top 12 counties with yields of 3.0 tons per acre or more are scattered across the state. The state averaged 2.65 tons per acre, up 0.30 tons from 2017. The highest average yield was 3.4 tons per acre, up 0.4 tons from 2017. The top county for 2018 was Meade County just as it was in 2017. The next six counties were Garrard and Marion at 3.25 tons, and Bracken, Fleming, Hardin and Monroe at 3.20 tons. The lowest yield reported was 1.55 tons per acre with four counties reported below 2.0 tons per acre; in 2017, 16 counties yielded below 2.0 tons per acre. The top counties in total production were Pulaski, Barren, and Madison.

KENTUCKY INCREASES FRUIT ACREAGE

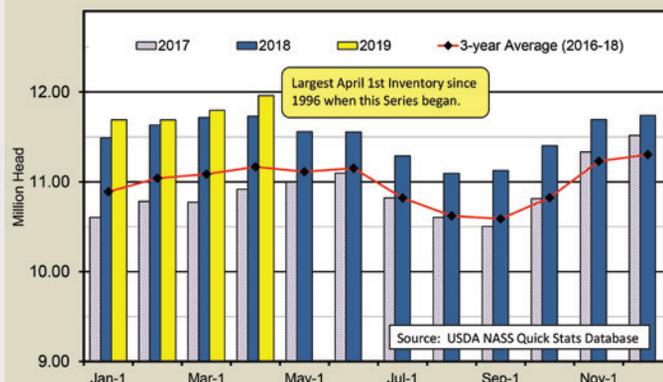
According to the recently-released 2017 Census of Agriculture, Kentucky had more farms producing fruit on more acres compared to 2012. In 2017, Kentucky had 1,047 farms with 2,339 acres of non-citrus fruit production, of which 1,542 acres were of bearing age (619 farms). In 2012, the estimates were 846 farms with 2,296 acres, of which 1,540 acres made fruit (558 farms). The largest segment of fruit farms produces apples. In 2017, Kentucky had 672 apple farms with 1,106 acres, of which 784 acres were of bearing age (352 farms). The 2017 estimates are sizable increases from the 2012 Ag Census. In 2012, Kentucky had a total of 554 apple farms with 962 acres, of which 614 acres produced fruit on 306 farms. In terms of acreage, the top five counties were Warren, 50 acres; Harlan, 47 acres; Scott, 35 acres; Shelby, 33 acres; and Harrison, 31 acres. In contrast to apple acreage, Kentucky's peach acreage declined from 2012 to 2017. In 2017, there were 364 farms with 370 acres of peach trees; of that, 292 acres on 208 farms produced peaches. This is down from 2012's 512 total acres on 368 farms; 203 farms had 371 acres producing peaches. Warren County has by far the most peach acreage; nine farms had 72 acres, of which 63 acres produced peaches. Nelson and Webster counties each had 21 acres of peaches.

Soybean Oil Use for Biodiesel Is On a Record Pace



Source: "Oil Crops Outlook", USDA, Economic Research Service, April 11, 2019

U.S. Cattle on Feed Lots Over 1000 Head



2019 KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU TEACHER WORKSHOPS

For approximately twenty years, Kentucky Farm Bureau has provided educators with a variety of teacher training and professional development opportunities designed to better enable participants to incorporate agriculture into their daily core curriculum.

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- **Carter Caves State Park, Olive Hill** – Monday, June 10
- **Barren River Lake Lodge, Lucas** – Wednesday, June 12
- **Lake Barkley Resort Lodge, Cadiz** – Thursday, June 13
- **Hilton Garden Inn, Pikeville** – Monday, June 24
- **Spindletop Hall, Lexington** – Tuesday, June 25
- **The Frazier History Museum, Louisville** – Thursday, June 27

The workshops will highlight a variety of state and national agricultural lessons designed to address Kentucky's core competences. These thematic lessons and materials will enhance learning retention and help teachers teach Mathematics, Social Studies, English, and Science through real-life application.

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Elizabethtown hintonsorchard.com 270-360-0644

JACKSON'S ORCHARD & NURSERY, INC.

Bowling Green jacksonsorchard.com 270-781-5303

JUST PIDDLIN' FARM

Woodburn justpiddlinfarm.com 270-542-6769

KENNY'S FARMHOUSE CHEESE

Austin kennyscheese.com 270-434-4124

MAMMOTH CAVE TRANSPLANTS

Brownsville mammothcavetransplants.net 270-597-2533

MOONLIGHT MEAT PROCESSING INC

Williamsburg moonlight-meat-processing.business.site 606-515-8813

POTS AND PETALS

Franklin potsandpetalsfranklinky.com 270-586-8322

ROBERTS FAMILY FARM

Guston robertsfamilyfarmky.com 270-422-2361

RUBY BRANCH FARMS

Franklin rubybranchfarms.com 270-776-4672

THE PUMPKIN WAGON

Elizabethtown the-pumpkin-wagon.business.site 270-401-3865

VANMETER FAMILY FARM

Clarkson vanmeterfamilyfarm.com 270-963-2320

For more market information, visit our website kyfb.com/roadside

KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU'S 2019 CERTIFIED ROADSIDE FARM MARKETS

Market hours are seasonal. Please contact the markets for opening date and hours of operation.

WILDCAT MOUNTAIN CHEESE		
East Bernstadt	wildcatmountaincheese.com	606-344-2882

NORTH CENTRAL KENTUCKY

ALPINE HILLS DAIRY TOUR/ COUNTRY PUMPKINS		
Dry Ridge	countrypumpkinsky.com	859-905-9656

ANTIOCH DAYLILY GARDEN		
Lexington	antiochdaylilygarden.com	859-806-5458

AYRES FAMILY ORCHARD		
Owenton	ayresapples.com	504-514-1594

BEECH SPRINGS FARM MARKET		
Winchester		859-744-2868

BI-WATER FARM & GREENHOUSE, LLC		
Georgetown	biwaterfarm.com	502-863-3676

BRAY FRUIT		
Bedford		502-255-7296

CHAPPELL FARMS PRODUCE		
Owenton		502-593-5500

COUNTRY CORNER GREENHOUSE & NURSERY, INC.		
Shepherdsville	countrycornergreenhouse.com	502-955-8635

EAGLE BEND ALPACAS		
Burlington	eaglebendalpacas.com	859-750-3560

ECKERT'S BOYD ORCHARD		
Versailles	eckerts.com/versailles	859-873-3097

EVANS ORCHARD AND CIDER MILL		
Georgetown	evansorchard.com	502-863-2255

FREE RADICAL RANCH		
Morning View	freeradicalranch.com	859-462-2344

GALLREIN FARMS		
Shelbyville	gallreinfarms.com	502-633-4849

GOLDEN APPLE FRUIT MARKET		
Lexington		859-273-8629

KINMAN FARMS		
Burlington	kinmanfarm.com	859-689-2682

LITTLE ROCK FARM		
Camp Springs	www.lrfcampsprings.com	859-991-6969

MCGLOSSON FARMS		
Hebron	mcglassonfarms.com	859-689-5229

MCLEAN'S AEROFRESH FRUIT		
Ewing		606-782-1112

MICHEL'S FAMILY FARM		
Sparta		859-643-2511

MILLVILLE COMMUNITY MARKET		
Frankfort		859-873-9772

MULBERRY ORCHARD, LLC		
Shelbyville	mulberryorchardky.com	502-655-2633

NELTNER'S FARM LLC		
Melbourne	neltnersfarm.com	859-635-3636

REED VALLEY ORCHARD		
Paris	reedvalleyorchard.com	859-987-6480

SHERWOOD ACRES BEEF		
LaGrange	sherwoodacresbeef.com	502-222-4326

SUNNY ACRES FARM		
Jeffersontown	sunnyacresfarmky.com	502-727-9536

THE FARM AT LANDWORKS		
Paris	thefarmatlandworks.com	859-987-1266

THE GREENHOUSE IN GERTRUDE		
Brooksville		606-782-0033

TRIPLE J FARM		
Georgetown	triplejfarm.org	502-863-6786

EAST KENTUCKY

APPLETREE		
Cumberland		606-589-5735

COUNTRY GARDEN GREENHOUSE		
Beattyville		606-424-9379

GOLDEN APPLE FRUIT MARKET		
Hindman		606-785-4891

GOLDEN APPLE FRUIT MARKET		
Whitesburg		606-633-4994

IMEL'S GREENHOUSE		
Greenup		606-473-1708

KENTUCKY ROOTS		
Louisa		606-686-3276

RED BIRD MISSION ROADSIDE FARM MARKET		
Beverly	rbmission.org	606-598-2709

PINE MOUNTAIN SETTLEMENT SCHOOL GIFT SHOP		
Bledsoe	www.pinemtn.org	606-558-3571

SAVAGE FARMS		
Louisa		606-922-0762

THE FARM STAND		
Paintsville		606-793-0805

TOWNSEND'S SORGHUM MILL & FARM MARKET		
Jeffersonville	townsendsorghummill.com	859-498-4142

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COUNTY CORNER

Snapshots of County Farm Bureau activities



BOYLE COUNTY

Community Appreciation Day was recently held at the Boyle County Farm Bureau office. Volunteers served free food while several Farm Bureau vendors and member service providers set up information tables and helped provide door prizes. Members of the Women's Committee were also on hand to help and to talk with visitors about Farm Bureau. The Danville Fire Department's new truck and the Air Evac helicopter were there, as well.



CASEY COUNTY

Pictured are participants in the recent ground breaking for a 4-H ham house in Casey County, made possible by the Casey County Farm Bureau.



JEFFERSON COUNTY

Jefferson County Farm Bureau leaders were recognized during the recent NuLu Bock Fest held in downtown Louisville, for their efforts in working with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture on the farm safety. Pictured from left are County President Calvin Shake, Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles, JCFB Executive Director Matt Michaud, and JCFB Vice President Bob Williams. The three were presented Honorary Commissioners of Agriculture awards.



KNOX COUNTY

During Food Check-Out Week, Knox County Farm Bureau gave away a Kentucky Proud Product Basket. For one month members put numbered tickets in a basket. At the end of the month, one ticket was drawn. Mr. Shelby Miller won

the basket. From left: Scott Payne, "Max," Carol Throckmorton, Cloyce Hinkle, Judith Hinkle, Mr. Miller, and Tammy Smith.



LETCHER COUNTY

Letcher County Farm Bureau recently hosted a distracted driving campaign at both high schools in the county. Pictured from left: Diane Watts, Howard Stanfill, and Wayne Fleming.



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Down the Backroads

By Tim Thornberry

I have discovered that you can tell a lot about a person by the ice cream they eat. There are those bold thinkers who prefer something like banana nut fudge or burgundy cherry. Then there are those “walking on the wild side” kind of people who will venture out and try sauerkraut or grilled Idaho potato flavors and yes those are real ice cream flavors.

My taste falls into the more conservative flavors, chocolate for the most part. Actually, it’s almost always chocolate.

Each night I enjoy a delicious bowl while watching television with

my wife. It is somewhat of a regular routine. She occasionally teases me about being boring because I won’t try a different flavor.

She does the same thing when we visit our favorite ice cream eatery and she orders a turtle-pecan- chocolate-whatever it’s called, and I get... chocolate. It just drives her crazy.

My love of ice cream must come from my father. He was a vanilla man. I never saw him eat any other flavor. Occasionally he would trade in his bowl for an ice cream cone which was his way of diversifying his palate. So, my lack of experimentation when it comes

to ice cream flavors is an inherited trait, most likely.

I have been known, however, to stand in front of the ice cream case at the grocery store for long periods of time pondering a different flavor. I always tell my wife I’m getting something different, but she knows that will likely not happen.

After several long, agonizing minutes trying to decide what new flavor is for me, I almost always end up going with the old familiar standby.

Change is hard, even when it comes to ice cream. What if I get a half-gallon of something I don’t like? I can still see my Grandmother Alice standing over the table saying, “If you put it on your plate, you have to eat it. No wasting of food in this house!”

So, there’s no way I’d throw it out and cause my dear grandmother to roll over in her grave. I suppose there is comfort in consistency. But what if I take that chance and discover a whole new world of ice cream I never knew was out there! What if this opens a whole new life for me to try new things, go new places, discover new worlds!

Okay, I know that is a little over the top, but my point is this; change can be good and scary at the same time. So, I think it is up to each of us to decide. Staying true to a long-standing practice is always a good thing. Honoring a tradition that has been handed down from an earlier generation is noble. But if we look hard enough, an answer can be found to any quandary even if it involves a little change in our lives.

By the way, I found a solution to having the same old boring dish of chocolate ice cream every night. It’s called Neapolitan! That’s my way of taking a walk on the wild side, as I travel down the backroads.



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