

The Commonwealth Grows



Volume 9, Issue 3
Summer 2009

Did you know...?

- September is Agritourism Month
- Over 300 agritourism venues are registered with Kentucky Farms Are Fun
- October is Sheep and Goat Month
- KY has over 91,200 goats on 4,808 farms and over 36,900 sheep on 1,436 farms

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Dairy Matters

Dairy Producers Facing Low Milk Prices and High Input Costs—what's being done to help?

Over the last several months, dairy farmers across the U.S. have been faced with low milk prices and high input costs. Even with the Milk Income Loss Contract payments, producers are losing money.

To help address the critical needs of this industry, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced that immediate action is being taken to support struggling dairy farmers by increasing the amount paid for dairy products through the Dairy Product Price Support Program (DPPSP). The USDA estimates that these increases, which will be in place from August through October 2009,

will increase dairy farmers' revenue by \$243 million.

"I applaud Sec. Vilsack and the Obama Administration for this action on behalf of dairy farmers across the nation," said Roger Thomas, GOAP executive director.

Prior to this announcement, USDA had taken other steps to provide support for dairy farmers, including reactivating the Dairy Export Incentive Program (DEIP). This program helps U.S. dairy exporters meet prevailing world prices in addition to encouraging the development of international export markets in areas where U.S. dairy products are not competitive, due to sub-

sized dairy products from other countries.

Earlier this year, the USDA also transferred approximately 200 million pounds of nonfat dry milk to USDA's Food and Nutrition Service. This move not only removes inventory from the market, but also supports low-income families struggling to provide nutritious meals.

"While these steps initiated by USDA and Obama Administration are extremely important to the future of the industry, we must continue to look for ways to help offset the tremendous losses experienced by dairy farmers in the past few months," noted Thomas.

How Does Your Garden Grow?

On a chilly morning in early July, First Lady Jane Beshear joined leaders from Western Hills High School, Kentucky Proud and Access Food Pantry to unveil and celebrate the first ever Governor's Garden.

Located on the grounds of Berry Hill Mansion, the garden is comprised of three separate plots. Each of these plots represents a model of what can be grown in backyards and public spaces across the Commonwealth.

Two sections of the garden are identical summer garden plots



First Lady Jane Beshear poses with Western Hills FFA students at the Governor's Garden.

prepared by the Western Hills High School agriculture students and FFA members. Playing host to a diverse variety of crops, the garden has already produced a significant summer bounty, including squash and zucchini picked at the first harvest.

The third plot is a fall garden with plantings that reflect the opportunity to extend harvest until the first frost.

(Continued on page 3)

The Commonwealth Grows

From the Desk of...

Senior Compliance Coordinator

CHANGE...

Throughout the past six months the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy has received, reviewed, discussed and educated the Commonwealth on changes and improvements to our programs and projects.

We've announced the combination of all model programs into the County Agricultural Investment Program (CAIP), established a new project application schedule, and introduced the Deceased Farm Animal Disposal Assistance Program and the On-farm Energy Efficiency & Production Investment Area.

During the months of April and May, the Compliance Team along with the Project Analysts hit the road to discuss the new changes impacting our office and the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund (KADF). Our Annual KADF Regional Workshops were

held at 11 locations across the state and reached over 240 individuals representing 98 counties. Thanks again to all those that were able to attend.



Participants from Shelby County Regional Workshop

As our office and the agriculture community continue to diversify and expand, it's clear that our programs must do the same. The Compliance Department is dedicated to the success of the changes and the progression in compliance.

The Compliance Team announces the following:

- Getting out and visiting with our recipients and administrators is important to the success of the KADF. Our Team will be out meeting one-on-one with recipients and administrators to discuss key components of their programs and projects and assist in efforts to reach

their full potential.

- Our website agpolicy.ky.gov is your link to our office. Visit the newly added "Compliance Corner " Web page for your one stop connection to the Compliance Team. Later in 2009, our office will begin posting a list of all producers that receive cost-share funds through the KADF.
- Input is always welcome. Our office gathers suggested changes throughout the year and recommends program revisions to the Board at their annual planning session. A comment/suggestion form is available on our website and we welcome your input.

Communication is our lifeline. The Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund and GOAP are here for you! Please continue to contact our office and let us know what changes we can do for you!

-Kylee Smith



Photo: Jean-Marie Lawson

Family & friends join (from center) Jim Sidebottom (KADB), Roger Thomas (GOAP), and Sam Lawson (KADB) for Dairy Night at the Lexington Legends—one of many events to celebrate June Dairy Month.



Staff Photo

(above) ADB member Pat Henderson listens, during a Rural Community Forum held in Harrodsburg by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.. (below) Secretary Vilsack speaks with Mercer Co. FFA students after the Forum.



Staff Photo

For nine years *The Commonwealth Grows* has been providing a link between GOAP and county council members across the Commonwealth.

We want to hear from you. Do you think we should

Change the Name or Keep it the Same?

E-mail your suggested newsletter names to govkyagpolicy@ky.gov.



Photo: The Farmers Office

Executive Director Roger Thomas received an honorary FFA degree at the state convention in Lexington.

ADB Update

New Member Appointed

On June 19, Gov. Steve Beshear announced the appointment of Karen Curtis to the Agricultural Development Board.

Curtis is a retired PVA from Robertson County where she

and her husband run a beef cattle farm. Curtis will serve for a term expiring July 2012.

The appointment represents active farmers with experience in agricultural diversification. Curtis replaces Dennis Griffin, who resigned earlier this year.

If you or someone you know is interested in serving on this or one of the many other state boards, then contact Boards and Commissions at www.governor.ky.gov or call (502) 564-0437 for additional information. ☺



Dean Scott Smith and Bruce Harper received honorary FFA degrees at this year's state convention in Lexington.

Photo: The Farmer's Pride

Stimulus Funding for Energy Savings



Earlier this year, GOAP applied for funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (i.e. stimulus funds), as part of the Kentucky Energy & Environment Cabinet's plan.

On July 7 it was announced that the application was successful. Therefore, funding will be available for bonus incentives in the "On-farm Energy Efficiency &

Production" investment area that is available through the County Agricultural Investment Program (CAIP).

Producers who request funds from the energy investment area may be eligible for bonus incentives on approved items. However, there are still a few items about administering these federal funds that need to be pointed out.

First, only expenditures made after the date that GOAP enters into a Memorandum of Agree-

ment with the Energy & Environment Cabinet will be eligible for reimbursement.

A producer will be able to receive 25% reimbursement of the actual cost of the energy saving item, up to \$10,000.

We will notify program administrators and the extension service as additional information is made available.

Please note that these issues do not impact a producer's ability to receive funds through the county's CAIP. ☺

Kentucky Agricultural Development Board

Chair, Steven L. Beshear
Governor

Vice-chair, Richie Farmer
Agriculture Commissioner

Sec. Larry Hayes
Economic Development

Dr. M. Scott Smith
Cooperative Extension

Dr. Mary Evans Sias
President, KSU

Sam Moore
Kentucky Farm Bureau

Sam Lawson
KY Chamber of Commerce

Vickie Yates Brown
Attorney w/ag. experience

Karen Curtis
Farmer

Rodney Dick
Farmer

Pat Henderson
Farmer

Wayne Hunt
Farmer

Jim Mahan
Farmer

Wayne Mattingly
Banker

Troy Rankin
Farmer

Jim Sidebottom
Farmer

Governor's Garden (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

The Governor's Garden is a part of Mrs. Beshear's larger Green Team initiative, which strives to promote sustainability, energy efficiency and environmental preservation.

"The average meal in the United States travels 1,200 miles from the farm to your plate," said Mrs. Beshear. "By growing crops in your own backyard or

buying locally grown produce, families can eliminate wasteful burning of fossil fuels and have access to fresher, healthier produce."

The majority of the produce raised in the Governor's Garden will be donated to Access Soup Kitchen.

Drawings of the garden plots are available on-line at

greenteam.ky.gov/garden or by contacting your county extension service office.

For more information about



The Governor's Garden

Staff Photo

County Council & Compliance Corner

Meet a Council Member: Larry Ayres



Photo: Creative Services

District 3 County Council Member of the Year, **Larry Ayres**, participates in the first Farmers' Market on the capitol grounds in 2008.

Larry Ayres grew up on a tobacco and cattle farm in Owen County. He and his family currently own and operate Ayres Family Orchard, a 10 acre fruit farm.

Mr. Ayres is president of the Owen County Farmers' Market and a Board member of the Franklin County Farmers' Market. He is also president of the Kentucky State Horti-

culture Society and vice-president of the Kentucky Farmers' Market Association.

Mr. Ayres has served on the Owen County Agricultural Development Council since its creation in 2000, has served on the Cooperative Extension Council District Board where he has been Chairman for many years, and currently serves as a Director on the

Owen County Farm Bureau Board. 



Staff Photo

Apples at Ayres' Family Orchard

Tools You Can Use: Communicating with Your Community

Communicating with Your Community

Sandra Gardner, Director of Communications

County councils and program administrators both have a need to communicate with the public, each for different reasons. Since county council meetings are subject to the open meetings act, it is important for the councils to publicize their meetings so that the public is aware. Program administrators, however, are required to advertise for at least two weeks before taking producers applications.

Though these are very different reasons to communicate with the public, the methods of communication can be very similar.

1) **Announce It:** Send a media advisory to announce meetings or a press release to announce events, program news. At a minimum your advisory and release should answer the questions Who? What? When? Where? Why?

2) **Show It Off:** Print a flyer on colored paper (yellow or other bright color) and post it at offices and businesses frequented by farmers, as well as community bulletin boards.

3) **Shout It Out:** Write a letter to the editor of your local paper to announce a special event or share the importance of agriculture to your community.

4) **Cultivate It:** Call your local media staff when a release from our office is sent out to make sure that they received it and encourage them to run it.

A call from someone in the community is more powerful than an e-mail from "the state".

 **Samples** of a media advisory, press release, and public service announcement are available at agpolicy.ky.gov on the News Center page.

If you have questions on how to promote a specific event or agriculture in general within your community, then please feel free to contact me at (502) 564-4627 ext. 223 or sandra.gardner@ky.gov. 

"Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new."

- Albert Einstein



Photo: Farm Bureau

Doug Langley, Shelby County farmer and county council member, is Kentucky's 2009 Farmer of the Year.

Next Issue: Open Meetings & Open Records

Compliance Spotlight

As stewards of public funds, GOAP has planned regular compliance visits to recently and previously funded projects to determine if the recipients are on-track with their project and are utilizing Agricultural Development Funds in the manner indicated in their approved application. Each month we will be spotlighting a project from one of our four project regions on our website that exceeds expectations. This is the first in the series.

Waterworks Farm Inc.

Waterworks Farm Inc. received \$82,000 in state and \$5,000 in Shelby County Agricultural Development Funds to expand their free range poultry operation in Shelbyville. This operation includes a flock of broilers and a small egg production business.

Agricultural Development Funds were awarded to build a facility and for the purchase of the necessary equipment to prepare the eggs for the marketplace.



Waterworks Farm hens have a laying rate of 87%.

Jon, Norma & Patrick Brumley are currently helping 10 local producers increase their net farm income. This group of poultry producers will raise pullets and gather the eggs. Waterworks Farm Inc. provides technical assistance and serves as a management link between area producers and the end product.

Waterworks continues to provide a specialty line of birds for producers to purchase for their egg production. These birds lay a selenium enriched egg. All eggs are labeled for quality assurance and traceability. All of the eggs are sold under the brands Shelby Pride and Rebecca Grace.

With the equipment purchased through this grant, the Brumleys can now process 12,000

to 15,000 eggs per week. They buy 10,000 eggs a week from 10 local producers and have 1,400 chickens themselves. They transport these eggs to restaurants and stores such as Whole Foods, Paul's Fruit Markets, Creation Gardens, Amazing Grace, and Good Food Co-op.

When asked about the obstacles they face, they agreed that they would not be able to make a living had they not received the grant from the Agricultural Development Fund and were very grateful.

According to the visiting project analyst, Jennifer Hudnall, this project serves as a great example of what Agricultural Development Fund projects are meant to accomplish. ☺



Waterworks Farm Inc. will individually laser-label eggs for quality assurance.

FAQ

Q. Does GOAP's press release count as advertising for CAIP?

A. No. The press release is a tool to announce the approval of funding for the program in a specific county.

All individual county program releases are sent via e-mail to the local media outlets (i.e. newspaper, radio), the county extension office, county judge executive, local legislators, program administrator, area development district, and others upon request, two Fridays after board approval.

There is no guarantee that the local media will run the release.

The administrator must advertise for a minimum of two weeks after the execution date of the program's legal agreement, independent of the press release.

Compliance Update

On a quarterly basis, the Compliance Department reports to the Agricultural Development Board on both the timeliness of project reporting and the number of projects and programs that have completed their reporting requirements.

As of the 2nd quarter of 2009, a total of 3,485 projects/programs had been approved. The status of these projects/programs is as follows.

Out of 871 projects approved to date, 361 (or 41%) have completed their reporting requirements with another 138 being reviewed for completeness.

When it is determined that these 138 projects have complied with the terms of their agreements and have completed their reporting requirements, they will be sent an official letter of completion.

The remaining 372 projects are in the monitoring phase, meaning that they are required to provide periodic reports about the progress of their project.

The 2,614 remaining approved projects are model programs. Of these approved model programs 2,371 (or 91%) have completed their reporting requirements. ☺

The Commonwealth Grows

Investments

The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board seeks to invest in innovative proposals that increase net farm income and effect tobacco farmers, tobacco-impacted communities and agriculture across the state by stimulating markets for Kentucky agricultural products, finding new ways to add value to Kentucky agricultural products, and exploring new opportunities for Kentucky farms.

At their June meeting, the KADB approved 8 projects for a total of \$284,500 in state and county Agricultural Development Funds. These projects represent just a few of the over 3,500 projects that have been approved since the program's inception in 2001.



Staff Photo

*Bramble Ridge Orchard
Montgomery County*



Staff Photo

(Top) Bramble Ridge Orchard tries a new product line with their apple cider vinegar. (Bottom) Various products are displayed in Bramble Ridge's on-farm retail market. Check back next issue for a feature about Bramble Ridge Orchard.

Application Deadlines

For consideration in...

October 2009:

Due August 14

December 2009:

Due October 9

February 2010:

Due December 11

Agricultural Sale & Show Facility

The Logan County Extension District Board was approved for \$100,000 in Logan and \$5,000 in Todd County funds for a multi-purpose agricultural facility for Logan and surrounding counties.

Building Louisville's Local Food Economy

The Louisville Jefferson County Metro Government Economic Development Department was approved for \$87,750 in state funds and \$500 each from Henry, Jefferson, Spencer, and Trimble Counties, as well as \$250 from Oldham County, for a Public Interest Broker who will coordinate direct farmer access to Louisville food markets.

Farms to Food Banks

God's Pantry Food Bank Inc. was approved for \$10,000 in Bath County, \$5,000 each from Fayette, Lincoln, and Pulaski Counties, \$2,500 each from Clark and Scott Counties, and \$30,000 in state funds. These funds will be used for the purchase and distribution of 15 types of Kentucky grown surplus produce for low-income clients throughout their 50 county service area in central and eastern Kentucky.

Regional Strategy for Biobased Products in the Mississippi Delta

The Memphis Bioworks Foundation was approved for \$250 each from Ballard, Calloway, Carlisle, and Graves county funds. These funds are for the development of a regional plan and implementation strategy to create new opportuni-

ties for producers by stimulating the development of value-added processing, spurring the commercialization of alternative crops, and creating jobs.

Russell County Farmers' Market

The Russell County Farmer's Market Association Inc. was approved for \$3,500 in Russell County funds for a mobile shelter for the farmers' market.



Staff Photo

Flashback: Anderson County Farmers' Market, 2004

Scott County Farmland Preservation

The Thoroughbred RC&D Council was approved for \$5,000 in Scott County funds for a purchase of conservation easements program.

Shelby County Dead Animal Removal

The Shelby County Fiscal Court was approved for \$10,000 in Shelby County funds to provide residents free dead animal removal services for fiscal year 2009.

Swine Production Project

The Kentucky Home Pork Producers of Nelson County were approved for \$10,000 in Nelson County funds to provide new and existing swine producers the opportunity to build, modernize, or expand their facilities, purchase

superior genetics, and provide value-added marketing opportunities.

The **County Agricultural Investment Program** is designed to provide farmers with incentives to allow them to improve and diversify their current production practices. CAIP covers a wide variety of agricultural enterprises in its eleven investment areas.

Over \$6.9 million was approved in May and June for the following administrators to offer CAIP in their counties:

Bourbon County Fiscal Court, \$398,000

Breathitt County Conservation District, \$75,000

Bullitt County Cattlemen's Association, Inc, \$90,000

Butler County Conservation District, \$60,000

Campbell County Conservation District, \$34,847

Carroll Co. Agriculture Development Fund, Inc, \$149,000

Casey County Conservation District, \$243,439

Clark County Conservation District, \$300,000

GRABIG (Davies Co.), \$150,000

Edmonson County Conservation District, \$90,000

Estill County Conservation District, \$150,000

Franklin County Cattlemen's Association, Inc, \$139,103



Wheat in LaRue Co. waiting for harvest.

Staff Photo

Grant County Cattlemen's Association, Inc, \$195,000

Hancock County Conservation District, \$120,176

Hardin County Extension District Board, \$130,000

Henry County Cattlemen's Association, \$295,000

Jefferson County Farm Bureau, \$63,680

Jessamine County FFA Alumni Association, \$200,000

Laurel County Cattlemen's Association, Inc, \$236,000

Lee County Conservation District, \$38,000

Lincoln County Cattlemen's Association, \$240,000

Madison County Conservation District, \$300,000

Buffalo Trace Area Development District, Inc. (Mason) \$250,000

Green River Area Beef Improvement Group, Inc. (McLean) \$72,500

Meade County Cattlemen's Association Inc, \$71,000

Mercer County Farm Bureau, Inc, \$225,000

Metcalfe County Conservation District, \$244,409

Monroe County Conservation District, \$183,072

Morgan County Fiscal Court, \$197,097

Nelson County Conservation District, \$165,000

Ohio County Cattlemen's Association, Inc, \$125,377

Oldham County Farm Bureau, \$45,000

Owen County Farm Bureau, Inc, \$350,000

Owsley County Conservation District, \$116,000

Pendleton County Agricultural Diversification Association, Inc, \$223,188

Robertson County Soil Conservation District, \$250,000

Rowan County Fiscal Court, \$96,400

Spencer County Conservation District, \$180,000

Trimble County Cattlemen's Association, \$188,000

Green River Area Beef Improvement Group (Webster Co.), \$25,639

Woodford County Agriculture Advancement Council, Inc, \$200,000

The **Pilot Farm Management Program** encourages individual Kentucky producers to use one of three eligible farm management programs. Pilot Farm Management recipients approved by the Board totaled \$5,050.

Larry Searcy, \$1,850

Luckhardt, Inc, \$1,500

Two Brothers Angus, \$1,700

Shared-use Equipment Programs

Established with the purpose of impacting many producers, who cannot justify ownership expenses associated with certain equipment .

The following county Cattlemen's Association was approved for this program in May:

Daviess Co. \$ 5,000
For the purchase of a cattle chute with head gate and scale to lease to county farmers.

The following county Conservation Districts were approved for this program in June:

Butler Co. \$11,250
For the purchase of a no-till drill



Rows of hay drying in Central Kentucky.

Staff Photo

to lease to county farmers.

Franklin Co. \$ 8,750
For the purchase of a no-till drill to lease to county farmers.

Metcalfe Co. \$10,846
For the purchase of a in-line bale wrapper to lease to county farmers.

Monroe Co. \$19,500
For the purchase of two no-till drills to lease to county farmers.



Dead Animal Removal

The Deceased Farm Animal Removal Program serves as an interim measure to facilitate the coordination of environmentally sound and cost effective disposal of deceased livestock for Kentucky producers.

The following county Conservation Districts were approved for this program in May and June:

Metcalfe Co. \$2,250
Monroe Co. \$3,750
Washington Co. \$6,677

The following county Fiscal Courts were approved for this program in May and June:

Carroll Co. \$ 2,025
Hardin Co. \$ 5,226
Henry Co. \$ 7,500
Madison Co. \$ 7,500
Nelson Co. \$ 7,500
Spencer Co. \$ 3,250
Trimble Co. \$ 2,500

David Appelman, Bracken Co. Ag Agent, watches a mulch/trickle tube layer demonstration at a 2004 Mason County Field Day.



Staff Photo



A Barren County tobacco field in June.

Staff Photo

KAFC Update



Director of Financial Services, **Bill McCloskey**, talks with Dr. **Melissa Lipps**, DVM and her loan officer, **Steve Hornback**, before a meeting of the Tobacco Oversight Committee. All three addressed the Committee and the importance of the new Large/Food Animal Veterinary Loan Program.

Meetings & Deadlines

For consideration on...

September 25:

Due September 4

November 6:

Due October 16

December 4:

Due November 13

**There will not be a KAFC board meeting in October.*

Brent Brockman (below) inspects a leaf of burley, curing last fall. Brockman received a Beginning Farmer Loan from KAFC to purchase a 300-acre farm in Casey County.



During their May meeting, the Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation approved over \$517,000 in loans for five producers across Kentucky.

Producers from the following counties were approved for the Agricultural Infrastructure (AILP) or Beginning Farmer (BFLP), Loan Programs.

Calloway (AILP)

Grant (BFLP)

Hopkins (AILP)

McLean (AILP)

Trimble (AILP)

KAFC participates with lenders through the *Agricultural Infrastructure Loan Program*

to provide financing to producers who are making capital expenditures for agricultural projects.

Eligible projects include permanent farm structures with attached equipment that improves the profitability of farming operations.

The *Beginning Farmer Loan Program* is designed to assist individuals with some farming experience who desire to de-



velop, expand or buy into a farming operation.

Beginning farmers may qualify for financing to purchase livestock, equipment, agriculture facilities, to secure permanent working capital and to make a down payment on real estate or invest in a partnership or LLC.

To date, KAFC has approved 290 projects and committed over \$35.5 million. ☪

Project Spotlight: Beginning Farmer

Growing up on his family's beef and tobacco farm in Adair County, Brent Brockman always knew that his place was on the farm.

After Brockman graduated from UK, he returned home to continue farming with his parents, but knew what he really wanted was to buy his own farm.

"I had always said if I could do anything I wanted to have my own farm," explained Brockman.

An opportunity arose to possibly buy a piece of land, so Brockman began checking out different loan options. He had heard about a Beginning Farmer Loan Program and asked his loan officer John Gossage, First and Farmer's Bank, if that program

might be an option for him.

"It seemed to me that the Kentucky Ag Finance's Beginning Loan Program was a perfect fit with Brent," said Gossage.

Gossage began working with Brockman on financial statements and cash flows, while also working with the KAFC staff to get an application filed for the loan.

"Once the loan was approved the staff worked with John at the bank to get everything taken care of," said Brockman, "I only wish the federal loans through FSA moved as quickly as the KAFC funds did."

Gossage agrees with Brockman that the experience working with KAFC has been a positive



Photo: Kara Keeton

one overall. As for the Beginning Farmer Program itself, as a lender, he sees it as another tool he can use to help farmers in his area.

"I think the KAFC has been one of the best investments of the tobacco settlement dollars," said Gossage. "The grant programs have been helpful, but the investment in KAFC's programs like the beginning farmer program is good for the farmer, good for the lender, and good for the state." ☪

Story courtesy of Keeton Communications

New Board Members Appointed

Gov. Beshear has announced three new members appointed and two members reappointed to the Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation.

The following were appointed to serve for terms expiring June 26, 2013.

George R. Begley is a



tobacco and cattle farmer. He resides in Richmond with his wife, Penny. The

appointment represents livestock farmers and replaces Charles L. Miller, whose term expired.

Kenneth H. Burdine is an extension livestock and forage economist at the University of Kentucky. He was raised in and currently resides in Nicholasville with his two children. The appointment represents agricultural economists and replaces Annette Crawford Walters, whose term expired.



Peggy J. Peterson is the vice president for Peoples Bank in Lebanon. She has been in banking for



32 years. The appointment represents commercial lending officers and replaces James T. Reams, whose term expired.

The following were reappointed to serve for terms expiring June 26, 2013.

Frank A. Penn is the owner of Pennbrook Farm. He lives in Lexington with his wife Rita Kelly. He represents the equine industry.

Larry B. Jaggars is a dairy farmer and represents dairy farmers. He lives in Glendale with his wife Carol.

Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation

Chair, Richie Farmer
Agriculture Commissioner

Jonathan Miller
Finance Secretary

George Begley
Livestock Farmer

Kenny Burdine
Agricultural Economist

Bob Gaslin
Financial Services Officer

Wayne Hunt
Grain Farmer, ADB Liaison

Larry Jaggars
Dairy Farmer

Doug Lawson
Commercial Lender

Frank A. Penn
Equine Representative

Peggy Peterson
Financial Services Officer

Bob D. Proffitt
Horticultural Producer

Boards and Commissions
www.governor.ky.gov
(502) 564-0437

Where the Wind Blows

Heritage Center tests potential renewable energy source for its sustainable facility

The **Kentucky Agriculture Heritage Center** has taken another step toward breaking ground on the sustainable facility set to showcase Kentucky's agricultural past, present and future.

In June, readings were taken from the wind tower set to monitor the potential for wind power at the site.

A Belcan design team has been working with the KAHC Board for over two years on the design of this historic site. The design team saw the potential to incorporate green

design as the core of the project.

A monitoring tower was installed in early spring to gather useful data to measure the available wind power at the future site of the Center.

The hope from testing is that there will be enough wind to warrant having large scale wind turbines on the site to provide a strong source of renewable energy.

Wind turbines, along with solar power and geothermal energy, are the trifecta the



Renderings of what the facility might look like if wind turbines are a viable energy option.

Center's engineers are betting on to make the facilities not only self sustaining, but hopefully producing enough energy in the future to feed back into the grid.

"We want people in the state to realize that the Kentucky Agriculture Heritage Center is much more than just a building," explained Virginia Flanagan, executive director. "What we are working towards is creating a sustainable center that incorporates the available resources of the land to power the operations, while also conserving the natural resources that are needed to make this a working farm." ☺

Kentucky Agriculture Heritage Center
kyagheritage.org
(859) 733-0701.

Public Affairs

Special Session Recap

Gov. Beshear called lawmakers back to Frankfort on June 15 to address four key issues. The main issue was to address the almost \$1 billion projected shortfall in the 2010 budget.

The other issues were modernizing Kentucky's economic development program; providing a way to keep large infrastructure projects from having an adverse effect on funding for rural transportation

projects; and, finally, legislation that could offer relief to our signature industry – the equine industry.

As a result of leadership and compromise by the Beshear administration and the Kentucky General Assembly, the first three issues were addressed and resolved.

This was a very important session for all of Kentucky, including our farm families and agribusinesses. The budget modifications should have minimal impact on agriculture

and the Agricultural Development Fund.

The lower new-jobs-created threshold for economic development incentives eligibility should allow some agribusinesses and farm operations to take advantage of these programs.

The transportation "mega-projects" legislation will help ensure that funding for rural roads and bridges will not be adversely affected by a mega-project. ☺



Staff Photo

Important Contact Information:

www.lrc.ky.gov

Legislative Message Line (800) 372-7181

TTY Message Line (800) 896-0305

En Espanol (866) 840-6574

World Equestrian Games

In late June, First Lady Jane Beshear and Roger Thomas, GOAP executive director, announced the appointment of **Angela Blank** as the *World Equestrian Games Agricultural Liaison* for Kentucky.

As the agricultural liaison for the World Equestrian Games, Angela will be in charge of coordinating and promoting Kentucky agriculture's role in

"The Kentucky Experience" and the World Equestrian Games as a whole.

Angela will also serve as the director of public affairs at GOAP. In this role, Angela will be working on policy issues and public relations. She will work collaboratively to develop relationships and enhance the public's understanding of the mission of GOAP and the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund.

Coming Soon!

agweg.ky.gov

"I am pleased to have Angela leading the effort on this once in a lifetime opportunity for Kentucky agriculture," said Thomas. "Angela's background and expertise make her a perfect fit to serve as the World Equestrian Games Agricultural Liaison and to direct GOAP's public affairs activities."



Angela G. Blank

Opening Ceremony:
Saturday, September 25, 2010

Closing Ceremony:
Sunday, October 10, 2010

Visit alltechfeigames.com for a schedule of events.



Staff Photo

Gov. Steve Beshear, along with First Lady Jane Beshear and other dignitaries, opened a state-of-the-art Indoor Arena—one of many preparations at the Kentucky Horse Park for the World Equestrian Games.

Experiencing Kentucky

The **Kentucky Experience** was developed to provide visitors to the World Equestrian Games an on-site location to see what's available in Kentucky, and then make plans to visit that specific region of the Commonwealth.

The Kentucky Experience will feature nearly 25,000 square feet

of exhibits, displays, products, entertainment, food and art.

Along with attractions from each of Kentucky's nine tourism regions, guests will be able see how Kentucky bourbon and wine are made, plus view Kentucky Proud products and Kentucky-made arts and crafts.

www.TheKentuckyExperience.com

Upcoming Events

Aug. 20 - 30

Kentucky State Fair

Kentucky Expo Center, Louisville

8/20 – **Commodity Breakfast**

(7:00 a.m.)

Kentucky Agricultural Council (10:00 a.m.)

Energy Day

GOAP Booth
(10:00 – 2:00)

8/21 – **KADB / KAFAC Joint Board Meeting**

(10:00 a.m.)

Milk & Cookies Day

GOAP Booth
(10:00 – 2:00)

8/22 – **Cheese Day**

GOAP Booth
(10:00 – 2:00)

8/27 – **KY Farm Bureau Ham Breakfast** (7:30 a.m.)

World Equestrian Games Day

GOAP Booth
(10:00 – 2:00)

The GOAP booth will be staffed by both GOAP and the Governor's Office. It will be located in the South Wing in Main Street Kentucky area.

Aug. 25-27

ID INFO Expo 2009 -

The ID Mandate: Meeting Consumer & Govt. Demands

Westin Crown Center
Kansas City, MO

Event includes presentations/discussions on national animal identification, traceability, regulation, and more.

Cost: \$475, includes meals

Contact: National Institute for Animal Agriculture, (719) 538-8483
www.animalagriculture.com

Sept. 1

KY Agricultural Leadership Program: Nominations

The Kentucky Agricultural Leadership Program (KALP) is accepting nominations for the next class which is sched-

uled to start in January 2010. KALP is an intensive 18-month program designed for young agricultural producers and agribusiness individuals from Kentucky who want to be on the "cutting edge" of decisions that affect agriculture, rural communities and society in the 21st century. Nomination forms are available on-line.

Contact: KALP

(859) 257-7292

KALP-L@LSV.UKY.EDU

www.uky.edu/Ag/KALP/

Sept. 18-19

2009 Kentucky Wood Expo

London/Laurel Optimist Sports Complex, London, KY

Features the latest technology & services for sawmill, pallet, logging, & secondary equipment, and more.

Cost: Adults \$5, Kids \$2

Contact: Kentucky Forest Industries Association, (502) 695-3979

www.kfia.org

Sept. 22

3rd Annual Kentucky Farm Women Field Day

Louisville Zoo

3:45 p.m. EDT

Join women from across the Commonwealth for fun, fellowship, and a free meal at the zoo.

Cost: Free

Contact: Jean-Marie Lawson
(502) 239-8484

jean-marie@hartlandeq.com

Oct. 15

KY Agricultural Leadership Program: Application Deadline

Requires a nomination by Sept. 1.

Contact: KALP

(859) 257-7292

KALP-L@LSV.UKY.EDU

www.uky.edu/Ag/KALP/

Oct. 17

Sheep and Goat Annual Meeting

Franklin Co. Extension, Frankfort

Contact: Ray Bowman
(502) 352-2434

info@kysheepandgoat.org

Oct. 20-22

Sunbelt Expo

Moultrie, GA

www.sunbeltexpo.com



Recurring Meetings

Tobacco Settlement Legislative Oversight Committee

First Wednesday of the month

www.lrc.ky.gov

Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation

Varies monthly

kafc.ky.gov

Kentucky Agricultural Development Board

Third Friday of the month

agpolicy.ky.gov

LATE BREAKING NEWS

Gov. Urges Relief for Dairy Farmers, Appoints KY Milk Commission

Gov. Beshear has requested USDA Sec. Tom Vilsack support adjusting the MILC payments to dairy farmers in Kentucky and across the nation. Gov. Beshear's letter to Vilsack, which was co-signed by other governors, was also sent to Kentucky's congressional delegation.

In a separate act, Gov. Beshear appointed the members of the Kentucky Milk Commission. He and Commissioner Richie Farmer also expanded the 10 member Commission by adding three ex officio member representing Kentucky Farm Bureau, the Milk Safety Branch, and UK Regulatory Services.



August is National Peach Month

How will you celebrate?

GOAP Staff List

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Chief of Staff

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Compliance Specialist

Diane Fleming

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Ag Development Fund Success Story

Carter farmers make up for decline in tobacco income

- Jim Trammel, *Ky Agricultural News*

Northeastern Kentucky farmers used to depend heavily on burley tobacco. In 2002, no other crop except hay even registered on the annual state agricultural statistics survey in Carter County. Now, annual tobacco production in Carter County is less than 1 million pounds where it once topped 3 million.

Hay wrapper Diversification grants from master tobacco settlement funds are helping Carter County farmers cope with this reduction.

"Beef and forage production has greatly improved and increased, [making up for] lost tobacco income," Evans told the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board in his 2007 Carter

County impact statement.

Evans said more than 160 Carter County farmers received almost \$300,000 during 2006 for fencing, forage improvements, cattle handling equipment, livestock/genetics purchasing, and hay shed construction.

Ronnie Purnell of Olive Hill credits grant funding with improving his beef cattle in both numbers and quality. He used agricultural development funds to improve his cattle operation.

"We were able to put in water systems we didn't have when the cattle were drinking from creeks, and we fenced our ponds," Purnell said.

The 70 head of beef cattle, bulls, and

stocker cattle Purnell acquired also met Expected Progeny Difference requirements - standards of predicting what a bull's calves will weigh at birth, at weaning, and as a yearling. The grants also helped improve his facilities for his vaccination, worming and fly control measures, further

protecting his cattle's value, Purnell said.

Purnell raised tobacco for 25 years. After receiving the grant funding and upgrading his cattle operation, he got out of tobacco

production. ☪

Visit www.kyagr.com/pr/AgFund.htm for more success stories.

(Above) **Ronnie Purnell** uses a hay wrapper to wrap round bales of hay for making haylage. Purnell bought the wrapper in part with cost share money from Carter County agricultural development funds.

