

# The Commonwealth Grows



Volume 10, Issue 1  
Winter 2010

## Did you know...?

- March 14-20, 2010 is National Agriculture Week.
- March 20 is National Agriculture Day.
- April 28 marks the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund's 10-year anniversary.

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## Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund Celebrates 10-year Anniversary

**D**uring this year's General Assembly, the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund celebrates its 10th anniversary.

On Feb. 8, 2000 eleven legislators sponsored House Bill (HB) 611 the landmark legislation that committed 50 percent of the state's proceeds from the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) to agriculture and rural development.

On April 26, then Governor Paul Patton signed HB 611 into law creating the Rural Development Fund, which is

now commonly known as the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund (KADF).

During that first year, all agricultural organizations worked together to develop *Kentucky's Long-term Plan for Agriculture* and to help guide Kentucky agriculture away from a dependence on one crop to a diversified portfolio of enterprises from our premier cattle industry to our growing goat industry to our fledgling wine industry.

In a recently produced video, Sam Moore, KADF board member and former Kentucky Farm Bureau president, said it

best, "Kentucky agriculture came together...with one accord and one voice." While many of the surrounding states used their MSA funds to initially balance budgets, Kentucky lawmakers provided a way to put the ideas and plans for agriculture into action through investments in farm families, value-added processing, marketing, diversification, modernization and enhancement of existing enterprises, and much more.

As our agricultural development process has grown and evolved over the last decade,

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Going Green: ARRA Funds for Farm Energy Efficiency

**K**entucky agriculture holds a priority role in helping the Commonwealth of Kentucky reduce its dependence on foreign energy and harness power through environmentally sustainable methods. Our state's farmers will benefit from \$2 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA or "stimulus") funds as part of Kentucky's State Energy Program award.



*Gov. Beshear announces energy, agriculture partnership at Langely Farms in Shelby County.*

A portion of the funds will be used to provide farmers additional assistance to implement energy efficiency upgrades on their farms, establish, generate, or harvest renewable energy sources from their farms, or hire technical expertise to accomplish these tasks.

Gov. Steve Beshear highlighted the role that Kentucky farm-

*(Continued on page 5)*

## The Commonwealth Grows

### 10-year Anniversary (cont.)

*(Continued from page 1)*

#### 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

other states now seek to use our model to help benefit their farmers. Additionally, beef backgrounders and feed lots seek out Kentucky feeder calves, which have seen vast improvements in genetics, care, conditioning, and marketing. The changes in the beef industry may have occurred over time, but there is no doubt that the changes happened more quickly and best management practices adopted faster, because of the incentives provided by the KADF through its programs.

Since rolling out the first model cost-share programs in 2001, the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board, chaired by the Governor, has reviewed and revised its programs and policies on an annual basis to keep them relevant and fresh. And 2009 was

no exception. The changes in 2009 included the County Agricultural Investment Program (CAIP), which provides the same incentives that earlier individual model programs did, but with greater access and accountability at the local level. This program provides all investment areas to the farmers of every county adopting the program.

We've accomplished much through these investments, but our work is not over. Every two years the KADF's viability hinges on the budget process. This year is a budget year in the General Assembly, meaning that appropriations for fiscal years 2011 and 2012 will be set during this legislative session. In his budget proposal, Gov. Beshear maintained 50 percent of the MSA for agriculture.

However, agriculture needs the continuing support of the



General Assembly to make this happen.

If you or someone you know has benefited in any way from the investments made from the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund – including the Kentucky Proud program, the Kentucky Beef Network, rural water lines, environmental cost-share through conservation and much more – then please contact your state senator and representative and ask them to continue to support this historic investment in Kentucky agriculture.

Roger Thomas  
Executive Director



#### Remember when...

*(Left) July 6, 2000, Governor Paul Patton announced his appointments to the first Kentucky Agricultural Development Board on Waverly Farm in Woodford County.*

*Members and legislators behind Gov. Patton (from left to right): Michael Slaughter, Hart Co.; Eddie Sellers, Woodford Co.; Sam Lawson, Warren Co.; Gene Strong, Economic Development; Wayne Hunt, Christian Co.; Dean Oran Little, UK; [Rep. Joe Barrows]; [Rep. Pete Worthington]; Billy Ray Smith, Commissioner of Agriculture; [Rep. Tom McKee]; Susan Harkins, Bourbon Co.; Larry Clay, Perry Co.; Willa Poynter, Mason Co.; Keith Jeffries, Henry Co.*

*Three members of this original group are currently serving on the board: Wayne Hunt, farmer member (Christian Co.); Sam Lawson, representing the Chamber of Commerce; and, Sam Moore, representing Kentucky Farm Bureau.*

## County Council & Compliance Corner

### Meet a Council Member: Russell Poore

**R**ussell Poore is a Logan County native who farms 200 acres in Russellville, producing tobacco, soybeans, corn and greenhouse items. His farm market is part of the Kentucky Farm Bureau Roadside Farm Market Program.

He has served as both Farm Bureau president and vice

president at the county level, as well as a member of the Agriculture Diversification Board and the Extension Council.

Mr. Poore is a member of the Board of Directors for the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation. He was elected to represent the Fourth District and

serves on the Roadside Markets Advisory Committee, and as chair of the Horticulture Advisory Committee.

In January, U.S. Ag. Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that Mr. Poore had been appointed to the National Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee. ☪



Photo: KFB

*Russell Poore of Russellville received the 2008 County Council Member of the Year award for District 6.*

### Council Changes Take Effect July 1

**E**very other year, members of the County Agricultural Development Councils are appointed for two-year terms. July 1 is the start of the 2010-2012 biennium.

This time, however, the composition of the councils will be changing. During the 2009 session of the General Assembly, legislation was passed to increase council membership and encourage diversity of membership on the councils.

First, term limits will take effect with a council member serving no more than two consecutive two-year terms. Those individuals rotating off the county council after two, two-year terms will be eligible to serve again after at least

two years off of the county council.

Also beginning in 2010, each appointing authority—Farm Service Agency (FSA), county conservation district or extension council—must replace its longest-serving member on the council with a new appointee, provided the longest-serving member has served on the council for four or more years.

In 2012, each appointing authority must again replace its longest-serving member on the county council with a new appointee, provided the longest-serving member has served on the council for four or more years.

If two council appointees have served the same amount of

time, the appointing authority shall determine which council appointee shall leave the council. Council members who are not reappointed in 2010 or 2012 shall be eligible for reappointment two years after their departure from the council.

An at-large member will be added for a total of nine members: two each from FSA, conservation and extension, and three at-large members.

Additionally, at least two of the nine members must be young farmers between the ages of 21 and 40.

At least one of the nine members must represent a gender or race not represented at the time of selection. ☪

### Council Composition

- + 2 farmers selected by the FSA county committee;
- + 2 members selected by the county conservation district;
- + 2 members selected by the county extension council; and
- + 3 at-large members selected by the above six.

County Agricultural Development Councils are governed by Kentucky Revised Statutes (KRS) 248.721 and are attached to the County Cooperative Extension Service for administrative support.

**Next Issue: Open Meetings & Open Records**

## County Agricultural Investment Program (CAIP)

### Changes Made for 2010

**D**uring their December 2009 meeting, the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board (KADB) approved revisions to the program guidelines and policies of the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund. The following are highlights of these changes.

#### **General Policy, Procedure Changes:**

Application Deadline – All applications are due to GOAP by the last Friday of the month.

County Councils – Councils must meet within 60 days of receiving an application for county funds to assign a priority to the application.

Legal Agreements – All legal agreements will be executed on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of each month (or the following business day).

Regional Workshops – These will be mandatory for all CAIP administrators; county council members and extension agents are encouraged to attend.

#### **County Agricultural Investment Program:**

Fertilizer, pesticide, soil amendments – These items will not be eligible for cost-share in any investment area.

Soil Tests — Reimbursement of up to \$10 per soil test for up to five tests is available to producers who follow the recommendations of the test.

Labor – Cost-share on documented hired labor will be allowed.

Producer Maximum – The annual maximum cost-share per producer is \$5,000 for all programs approved in 2010. However, counties may lower this amount to benefit more producers.

New Section – In Agricultural Diversification, a new category titled “Marketing and Promotion” will consolidate items from each of the investment areas related to marketing and promotion.

Technology Consolidated — All cost-share items in the

investment areas related to computer hardware and software have been consolidated into one category under the technology investment area.

Retroactivity – Beginning 2011, only receipts dated after the execution of the CAIP legal agreement may be submitted for reimbursement.

Trailers, wagons – Trailers and wagons have been removed from all investment areas and will not be eligible for cost-share.

A summary of all revisions and the revised guidelines are available on-line at [agpolicy.ky.gov](http://agpolicy.ky.gov). Dates for the 2010 Regional Workshops are on page 15.

For more information, visit the above Web site or contact your Area Project Analyst at (502) 564-4627. *cs*



### Other Changes

The **Pilot Farm Management** program was suspended, because eligible cost-share items are already offered through the technology investment area.

There were no changes to the **Shared-use Equipment** program.

The **Agritourism** and **Farmers' Market** awards programs were suspended as independent programs. The KADB remains supportive of these endeavors, and applicants requesting funds for these endeavors should apply for funds through the standard project application process.

**Learn more about these changes at a Regional Workshop.**

## Going Green (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

 ers have been playing and can continue to play in the development of alternative energy sources.

"Research is underway that will help us understand how we can better take advantage of the tremendous agricultural assets we have in Kentucky," said Energy and Environment Cabinet Secretary Len Peters.

"Those assets will be a major component in our long-term energy strategy to develop renewable energy resources to address Kentucky's growing demand for inexpensive but reliable fuel sources."

In addition to on-farm energy incentives, a portion of the stimulus funds will be for the *Multi-county Energy Initiatives Program*, which will complement tobacco settlement funds for multi-county collaborations that will advance renewable energy production. *cs*

## On-farm Energy Applications Available



Applications for the 2010 ARRA On-farm Energy Efficiency & Production Incentives Program are now available.

Unlike the previous round of funding, producers will apply directly to the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy (GOAP). Producers have until March 26, 2010 to submit their applications to GOAP.

Applications for these on-farm energy incentives are not dependent on participation in the energy investment area of CAIP.

The energy stimulus incentive program provides 25 percent reimbursement of the actual cost of a federally qualified energy saving item(s), up to

\$10,000. Permissible items include, but are not limited to, energy audits, energy efficient farm building components, on-farm energy upgrades and on-farm energy efficiency training.

All applications meeting the minimum requirements of eligibility will be considered for funding and scored by a review committee. The application and guidelines can be found at [agpolicy.ky.gov](http://agpolicy.ky.gov).

**Program Contact:**  
Bryan Thomas  
(502) 564-4627 x. 222  
(502) 330-7023  
[bryan.thomas@ky.gov](mailto:bryan.thomas@ky.gov)

Visit [www.kentuckyatwork.ky.gov](http://www.kentuckyatwork.ky.gov) for information about stimulus programs in Kentucky.

*Energy bonus incentives are made possible through the Renewable Energy Partnership between the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy and the Energy and Environment Cabinet's Department for Energy Development and Independence. Funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Energy from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.*



**Governor's Office of  
Agricultural Policy**  
[agpolicy.ky.gov](http://agpolicy.ky.gov)

*The Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund is comprised of 50% of the state's Tobacco Settlement Funds.*

### How Does Kentucky's Agricultural Development Fund Impact You?

*Do you like clean, accessible drinking water?*

\$326,000,000 for rural water infrastructure projects

*Do you value the environment?*

\$90,000,000 for environmental cost-share through the KY Division of Conservation

*Do you enjoy Kentucky's scenic farmscapes?*

\$25,000,000 for farmland preservation

*Are you interested in preserving Kentucky's agricultural heritage for future generations?*

\$10,000,000 for the Kentucky Agriculture Heritage Center

*Are you concerned about having a secure food supply?*

\$20,300,000 for improvements to the two animal diagnostic labs in Kentucky

*Do you enjoy locally grown foods?*

\$7,422,900 for the Kentucky Proud program, Kentucky's official brand

#### **Other facts about the Fund...**

Along with producer investments, Kentucky has invested over a half billion dollars in an array of projects designed to increase net farm income and create sustainable farm-based business enterprises.

The KADF has also supported long-term investments to provide Kentucky farmers access to capital through the Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation.

The above leaflets are available upon request for counties to use in spreading the word about how the agricultural development fund impacts all Kentuckians.

## 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 October, November and December meetings, the KADB approved a total of \$3,678,747 in state and county agricultural development funds in projects and programs across the Commonwealth, representing 42 of more than 3,600 projects approved since 2001.

### Application Deadlines

For consideration in...

**June 2010:**

Due March 26

**August 2010:**

Due May 28

**October 2010:**

Due July 30

**December 2010:**

Due September 24

**January 2011:**

Due November 29

Applications for CAIP, Deceased Farm Animal and Shared-use Programs, as well as amendments, are due the last Friday of the month and are eligible for vote at the following KADB Meeting.

**Agricultural Leadership Cost-share Program**

The Washington County Cattle-men Association was approved for \$14,690 in Washington County funds for a cost-share program to allow farmers to participate in agriculture-related leadership programs.

**Agricultural Pavilion Expansion**

The Lions Club Inc. of Temple Hill was approved for \$42,025 in Barren County funds for the expansion of an existing pavilion to increase capacity for their growing agriculture events.

**Breckinridge County Farmer Welding Program**

The Breckinridge County Board of Education was approved for \$16,000 in Breckinridge County funds to provide basic and advanced metal inert gas (MIG) welding courses for area producers to reduce hiring outside help to repair equipment, thus increasing net farm income.

**Custom Processing Facility**

J & Sons Meats and Processing LLC was approved for \$10,000 in Lincoln and \$10,000 in Garrard County funds to expand processing capacity of a custom meat

processing facility and develop the wholesale and retail operation to meet U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) requirements.

**Farm Marketplace**

The Grant County Fair Inc. was approved for \$35,000 in Grant County funds to construct a marketplace for local farmers to market farm-raised products and provide a commercial kitchen for adding value to those products.

**Farmers' Market Demo Kitchen**

The Laurel County Agricultural Extension Foundation was approved for \$10,000 in Laurel County funds for completion of a demonstration kitchen at the London-Laurel County Farmers' Market.

**Food Systems Innovation**

The University of Kentucky was approved for \$358,904 in state funds for the development of the Food Systems Innovation Center to help create healthy, profitable, safe and legal value-added Kentucky food products.

**Goat & Sheep Processing Facility Expansion**

Bluegrass Lamb & Goat LLC was approved for \$29,500 in county

increase efficiency and capacity of the facility, reaching more producers over a larger area.

**Greenhouse Nursery Operation Expansion**

Owens Garden Center LLC was approved for \$86,470 in state funds as a zero-interest loan and \$4,000 in state and \$4,000 in Pulaski County funds as a grant. The funds will be used to expand the greenhouse operation and allow the Garden Center to purchase landscape nursery products from other Kentucky producers.

**Jessamine County Farmer Welding Program**

The Jessamine County FFA Alumni Association Inc. was approved for \$15,000 in Jessamine County funds to provide arc/stick and MIG welding courses to local farmers to decrease outsourcing of repairs and increase net farm income.

**Kentucky Proud Retail Expansion**

Jackson's Orchard & Nursery was approved for \$2,500 in Warren County funds to purchase and install freezer units to expand their Kentucky Proud product offering.

**Kentucky Proud Retail Renovation**

Pelly's Farm Fresh was approved for \$10,000 in state funds as a grant, \$48,913 in state funds as a zero-interest loan and \$10,000 in Warren County funds for the renovation of an existing milking parlor into a retail sales outlet for Kentucky Proud products.



funds from Clark, Fayette, Hart, Jessamine, LaRue, Mercer, Taylor and Woodford counties. Funds will be used to update equipment to

**Livestock Arena & Education Facility**

Nicholas County Fiscal Court was approved for \$53,000 in Nicholas County funds to construct a facility that will hold a livestock arena and educational facilities for youth and adults.

**Livestock Marketing Facility**

The Grant County Cattlemen's Association was approved for \$75,000 in Grant County funds to construct a livestock marketing and exhibit arena.

**Marshall County Farmer Welding Program**

The Marshall County Conservation District was approved for \$5,460 in Marshall County funds to provide basic MIG welding courses for area farmers to increase net farm income by reducing outsourcing of on-farm equipment repairs.

**Meat Processing Facility Development**

Marksbury Farm Foods LLC was approved for up to \$75,000 in state funds to develop a USDA-inspected processing facility and retail distribution center, specializing in natural foods, including organic, grass-fed, pastured and antibiotic, steroid, hormone (ASH)-free products.

**Purchase of Development Rights**

The Fayette County Rural Land Management Board Inc. was approved for \$75,000 in Fayette County funds for a purchase of conservation easements program.

**Purchase of Development Rights**

The Thoroughbred RC& D Council, on behalf of the Woodford County Rural Land Board, was approved for \$15,000 in Woodford County funds for a purchase of conservation easements program.

**Regional Ag Leadership Program**

Mammoth Cave RC&D was approved for \$1,000 in Allen County funds for a regional leadership program titled "Motivating and Educating Agricultural Leaders" (MEAL). MEAL will focus on leadership, interpersonal and communication skills, as well as how farmers can represent agricultural interest on issues affecting both rural and urban communities.

**Sorghum Processing Facility**

Cravens Farm Greenhouse was approved for \$8,750 in state funds and \$5,000 in Clinton and \$1,250 in Cumberland County funds for the establishment of a sorghum molasses processing facility, as well as expansion of their greenhouse operation.

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 11 investment areas.

More than \$2.6 million was approved in October, November and December for the following to offer CAIP in their counties:

- Bath Co. Conservation District \$120,000
- Boyle County Farm Bureau \$324,000
- Breckinridge Co. Conservation District \$365,000
- Grayson County Cattlemen's Association \$100,000
- Magoffin County Agriculture Investment Program \$112,375
- Menifee County Beef Producers \$120,000
- Nicholas Co. Fiscal Court \$287,500
- Powell County Livestock Producers Association \$55,500



(Above) Bales of switchgrass awaiting pelletization.

The bales come from a test plot of switchgrass managed by the Kentucky Forage and Grasslands Council.

- Russell County Agriculture Investment Program Council \$163,000
- Todd County Conservation District \$300,000
- Trigg County Conservation District \$100,000
- Washington County Cattlemen Association \$315,000
- Wayne Co. Agriculture Development Council \$150,000
- Wolfe Co. Conservation District \$120,000

**Shared-use Equipment Programs**

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

- Anderson Co. Farm Bureau \$10,750  
For the purchase of a 10-foot no-till drill/seeder.
- Nicholas Co. Fiscal Court \$6,016  
For the purchase of a lime spreader.

**Dead Animal Removal**

The Deceased Farm Animal Disposal Assistance 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 Fiscal Courts were approved for this program:

- Anderson Co. \$3,975
- Fleming Co. \$7,500
- Mason Co. \$5,915
- Todd Co. \$5,000



(Above) Bales of switchgrass start the pelletization process.

(Below) Student intern Stephen Camp and GOAP staffer Bryan Thomas inspect newly formed switchgrass pellets.

Staff Photos



## Meetings & Deadlines

For consideration on...

- April 9:**  
Due March 19
- May 7:**  
Due April 16
- June 4:**  
Due May 14

### Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation

**Chair, Richie Farmer**  
*Agriculture Commissioner*

**Jonathan Miller**  
*Finance Secretary*

**Westy Adams**  
*Horticulture Producer*

**George Begley**  
*Livestock Farmer*

**Kenny Burdine**  
*Agricultural Economist*

**Bob Gaslin**  
*Financial Services Officer*

**Wayne Hunt**  
*Grain Farmer, ADB Liaison*

**Larry Jagers**  
*Dairy Farmer*

**Doug Lawson**  
*Commercial Lender*

**Frank A. Penn**  
*Equine Representative*

**Peggy Peterson**  
*Financial Services Officer*

**Bob D. Proffitt**  
*Horticultural Producer*

## KAFC Update

During their November and December meetings, the Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation (KAFC) approved over \$934,565 in loans for 11 producers across the Commonwealth.

Producers were approved for loans in the following programs:

Through the *Agricultural Infrastructure Loan Program* KAFC participates with lenders 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.

Agricultural infrastructure loans totaled \$620,000 and included recipients from Daviess, Logan, Marion, Mercer, Pendleton and Webster counties.

The *Beginning Farmer Loan Program* is designed to assist individuals with some farming experience who desire to develop, expand or buy into a farming operation.

Beginning farmers may qualify for financing to purchase livestock, equipment, agriculture facilities, to make a down payment on real estate or invest in a partnership or LLC. Beginning farmer loans totaled \$214,565 and included recipients from Clark, Green and Henderson counties.



The *Large/Food Animal Veterinary Loan Program* is designed to assist individuals licensed to practice veterinary medicine in Kentucky who desire to construct, expand, equip or buy into a practice serving large animal producers, as well as other smaller food animals. KAFC participates with a local lender to provide financing. One Large/Food Animal Veterinary loan was approved for \$100,000 in Barren County.

To date, KAFC has approved 322 projects and committed more than \$38.4 million. ☞

## Beginning Farmer Spotlight



Above, Bill McCloskey, director of financial services, visits with **Nelson Owens** and **Karen Newton**, Farm Credit Service loan officer, at Owens's home in Wayne County. The Nelsons worked with Farm Credit Services of Mid-America to secure financing to purchase the family poultry farm through the

KAFC Beginning Farmer Loan Program.

The Beginning Farmer Loan Program is one tool to help families transfer the family farm between generations. Applicants to the program may choose to buy into the family farm operation or buy the farm itself.

Owens's farm has been in the family since 1948, and he would like to keep it that way for future generations. KAFC's Beginning Farmer Loan Program has helped the Owens Family towards that goal. ☞

*The Beginning Farmer Loan Program provides financing up to \$250,000 for new investments at a fixed rate of 2% APR for up to 15 years. The program requires a participating lender and other eligibility requirements to be met before financing is approved.*

## Public Affairs Update

### Focus on State and National Policy



National and state policy continues to be one of the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy's top priorities. As a part of the Governor's Office, we are expected to provide the most current and accurate policy information, to allow our constituents to be aware of agricultural issues pertaining to Kentucky. It is also very important our con-

gressional delegation continues to be aware of issues concerning our farmers.

With the crisis in the dairy and pork industries, agriculture policy is front and center. Gov. Beshear has continuously shown his support to Kentucky farmers by being directly involved in issues such as these. This past year, a team from GOAP traveled to Washington, D.C. to visit with our congressional delegation, the United State Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Office of the United States Trade Representative, Executive Office of the President.

The dairy and pork issues were discussed, as well as those in the poultry industry. Other topics on the minds of our

congressional delegation centered on efforts and accomplishments of the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund; dead animal removal; regional composting efforts; energy stimulus funds and the energy efficiency programs that GOAP is administering; and, the Emergency Conservation Program and how it affected the horse industry with last year's ice storm damage. The 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games was also a top priority., along with the importance of promoting agriculture and our Kentucky Proud producers.

**Angela Blank**

Director of Public Affairs  
[angelag.blank@ky.gov](mailto:angelag.blank@ky.gov)

#### **Ky. Senate Agriculture Committee**

- Sen. David Givens, Chair
- Sen. Vernie McGaha, Vice Chair
- Sen. David E. Boswell
- Sen. Ernie Harris
- Sen. Robert J. (Bob) Leeper
- Sen. Joey Pendleton
- Sen. Dorsey Ridley
- Sen. Kathy W. Stein
- Sen. Damon Thayer
- Sen. Ken Winters

#### **Ky. House Agriculture & Small Business Committee**

- Rep. Tom McKee, Chair
- Rep. Royce Adams, Vice Chair
- Rep. John Arnold, Jr., Vice Chair
- Rep. Mike Denham, Vice Chair
- Rep. C. B. Embry, Jr., Vice Chair
- Rep. Richard Henderson, Vice Chair
- Rep. Ken Upchurch, Vice Chair
- Rep. Terry Mills, Vice Chair
- Rep. Johnny Bell
- Rep. John "Bam" Carney
- Rep. Mike Cherry
- Rep. James R. Comer
- Rep. Jeff Greer
- Rep. Charlie Hoffman
- Rep. Martha Jane King
- Rep. Brad Montell
- Rep. Fred Nesler
- Rep. David Osborne
- Rep. Sannie Overly
- Rep. Don R. Pasley
- Rep. Tom Riner
- Rep. Steven Rudy
- Rep. Dottie Sims
- Rep. Kent Stevens
- Rep. Wilson Stone
- Rep. Tommy Turner
- Rep. Susan Westrom

#### **Tobacco Settlement Fund Oversight**

- Sen. Carroll Gibson, Co-Chair
- Rep. Dottie Sims, Co-Chair
- Sen. David E. Boswell
- Sen. David Givens
- Sen. Vernie McGaha
- Sen. Joey Pendleton
- Sen. Damon Thayer
- Rep. Royce Adams
- Rep. James R. Comer
- Rep. Charlie Hoffman
- Rep. Tom McKee
- Rep. Tommy Turner



#### **Important Contact Information:**

Legislative Message Line  
(800) 372-7181

TTY Message Line  
(800) 896-0305

En Espanol  
(866) 840-6574

*Have you or someone you know benefited from the Ky. Agricultural Development Fund?*

*Then contact your legislators and let them know.*

To contact your local legislator visit: <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/legislators.htm>

To contact your U.S. Representative visit: <http://www.house.gov>

To contact your U.S. Senator visit <http://www.senate.gov>

## The Big Event

### World Equestrian Games Planning in Full Swing

With less than eight months until the opening ceremonies of the 2010 Alltech FEI World Equestrian, planning is in full swing! Tickets went on sale on for the games, to be held Sept. 25-Oct. 10, 2010, and have exceeded expectations.

To purchase tickets visit: [www.alltechfeigames.com](http://www.alltechfeigames.com).

Last fall, [agweg.ky.gov](http://agweg.ky.gov) was launched in an effort to highlight agriculture's role in the games. This Web site is providing the agricultural community, as well as the general public, a central location to obtain information related to involvement in the "Kentucky Experience" and the games.

Kentucky Proud farmers, pro-

#### What is the Kentucky Experience?

##### 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](http://www.TheKentuckyExperience.com)

ducers, artists, and others have a unique opportunity for their products to be featured during games.

The Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy will serve as a partner in the "Kentucky Experience" during the games by managing the Kentucky Proud Pavilion. This partnership with the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture will feature and sample Kentucky Proud products during the 16-day event.

The application and review process to have a product become part of the Kentucky Proud Pavilion may be found by visiting [agweg.ky.gov](http://agweg.ky.gov). The next deadline for applications is **Wednesday, March 31.**



**Alltech FEI**  
**World Equestrian Games™**  
Kentucky 2010

**Opening Ceremony:**  
Saturday, September 25, 2010

**Closing Ceremony:**  
Sunday, October 10, 2010

Visit [alltechfeigames.com](http://alltechfeigames.com)  
for a schedule of events.



(Above) First Lady Jane Beshear and John Nichols, executive director of the Kentucky Horse Park, after updating the KADB and KAFC in December on preparations for the World Equestrian Games.



(Above) Eleven Kentucky chefs participate in a press event to announce the James Beard Foundation's "Cookin' in the Bluegrass: A Celebrity Chef Dinner Series" at the Kentucky Horse Park's Farmhouse restaurant. The series will be held each night of the Alltech FEI World Equestrian Games, Sept. 25 - Oct. 10, 2010.

Staff Photo

Contact: Angela Blank, World Equestrian Games Ag. Liaison  
404 Ann Street | Frankfort, KY 40601  
(502) 564-4627 x. 224 | [angelag.blank@ky.gov](mailto:angelag.blank@ky.gov)

Kentucky chefs will be paired with a celebrity chef to prepare dishes reflecting their culinary specialties and will have the opportunity to use Kentucky Proud products.

## Upcoming Events

### Recurring Meetings

**Tobacco Settlement Legislative Oversight Committee**  
First Wednesday of the month  
[www.lrc.ky.gov](http://www.lrc.ky.gov)

**Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation**  
First Friday of the month  
[kafc.ky.gov](http://kafc.ky.gov)

**Kentucky Agricultural Development Board**  
Third Friday of the month  
[agpolicy.ky.gov](http://agpolicy.ky.gov)



**Mar. 1**  
**Agritourism Update**  
Barren Co. Extension, Glasgow  
9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. CST  
Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.  
**Cost:** \$20  
**Contact:** Whitney Meadows, KDA  
(502) 564-4983 x. 223  
[whitney.meadows@ky.gov](mailto:whitney.meadows@ky.gov)  
[www.kentuckyfarmsarefun.com](http://www.kentuckyfarmsarefun.com)

**Mar. 3**  
**Ky. Dairy Partners Annual Meeting**  
Cave City Convention Center  
8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. CST  
Registration, exhibits open at 8:30 a.m. with opening remarks at 9:00 a.m.  
**Cost:** \$25; Ky. dairy producers free  
**Contact:** Eunice Schlappi  
(502) 564-4983  
[eunice.schlappi@ky.gov](mailto:eunice.schlappi@ky.gov)

**Mar. 15 - Dec. 30**  
**Exhibit: This is the American Saddlebred**  
The American Saddlebred Museum  
4083 Iron Works Pkwy, Lexington  
Explores the versatility of the "horse America made."  
**Contact:**  
(859) 259-2746  
[www.americiansaddlebredmuseum.org](http://www.americiansaddlebredmuseum.org)

**Mar. 15 - 18**  
**Ky. Cheesemaking School**  
Bleugrass Chevre, Lexington  
**Cost:** \$275/person, includes materials and lunch  
**Contact:** Terry K. Hutchens, UK  
(859) 257-2465  
[thutchen@uky.edu](mailto:thutchen@uky.edu)  
[www.uky.edu/AFS/goats/goat.html](http://www.uky.edu/AFS/goats/goat.html)

**Mar. 24 - 26**  
**Ky. Forest Industries Annual Meeting**  
Holiday Inn University Plaza,  
Bowling Green  
**Contact:** [www.kfia.org](http://www.kfia.org)

### Ky Proud Product Application Deadlines

*To have products considered for resale at the Kentucky Proud Pavilion, applications must be submitted by the dates below:*

**Due March 31**  
April 2010 Review

**Due June 30**  
July 2010 Review

**May 14 - 16**  
**Kentucky Sheep & Fiber Festival**  
Masterson Station Park, Lexington  
Held in conjunction with the Bluegrass Classic Stockdog Trial  
**Contact:** Sharon Koontz, KSGDO  
(502) 352-2434  
[sharon@kysheepandgoat.org](mailto:sharon@kysheepandgoat.org)  
[www.kentuckysheepandfiber.com](http://www.kentuckysheepandfiber.com)

### Regional Workshops

The following are the remaining five locations of the 11 regional workshops.

9:00 a.m.– noon local time:

- ✦ Thursday, March 4 –McCreary County Campus, Somerset Community College
- ✦ Friday, March 5 – Clay County Extension Office, 69 Jamison Rd., Manchester
- ✦ Monday, March 22 – Magoffin County Extension Office, 15 Rockhouse Fork Road, Salyersville
- ✦ Wednesday, March 24 – Bath County Extension Office, 2914 East Hwy 60, Owingsville
- ✦ Monday, March 29 – Fayette County Extension Office, 1140 Red Mile Place, Lexington

Please RSVP at least two days before the event to Kylee Palmer or Jennifer Daniels at (502) 564-4627 or [govkyagpolicy@ky.gov](mailto:govkyagpolicy@ky.gov).

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**Mike Tobin**  
Project Analyst



*April 26, 2010 is the  
10th Anniversary of the  
Kentucky Agricultural  
Development Fund*



E-mail [sandra.gardner@ky.gov](mailto:sandra.gardner@ky.gov) to receive this newsletter by e-mail.

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**Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy**

404 Ann Street  
Frankfort, KY 40601

## The Commonwealth Grows

### Henry County couple changes tobacco farm into wine country

- Chris Aldridge, *Ky Agricultural News*

Chuck Smith jokes that he wishes he had asked for more than the \$73,700 in grants that he received in 2002 from the Kentucky and Henry County agricultural development boards to start Smith-Berry Vineyard and Winery near New Castle.

"I didn't want to be greedy," said Smith, who doesn't believe a bank would've lent that much money to the tobacco and dairy farmer he was six years ago.

"There's a certain limit you can borrow when you're a young farmer trying to diversify from tobacco," he added. "It takes so much money to open up a new business. We had to spend money to fix up buildings because we were true tobacco farmers."

Smith became attracted to winemak-

ing when he and his wife, Mary Berry-Smith, began investigating crops that might replace the income they received from burley. Their research revealed that soil and weather patterns on their Henry County farm closely matched those found in wine growing regions of France.

To buy winemaking equipment and renovate a dairy barn into a winery, the Smiths received a \$48,700 grant from the state ag development board and \$25,000 from the county board.

Six years later, Smith-Berry stands as a shining example of successful diversification from tobacco farming in Kentucky. Chuck raises 5 acres of three different varieties of grapes and buys other varieties from four other Kentucky growers.

"It's been quite successful," he said. "We'll have at least 30,000 people [annually] here from all over the world, so it has been good for the

image of the state and our local economy."

"The marketing part of this business is different from farming," Chuck said. "When you sold your tobacco or cattle, you were done. Now we have to get 'em here and sell 'em, too. 'Build it and they will come' is not true. You have to advertise."

In addition to growing grapes, Chuck has a herd of 40 organically-raised beef cattle. He's added organically-raised sheep and free-range chickens to control weeds and insects around the vines.

"We're still farming," Chuck said, "but we're also in the wine and entertainment business."

Visit Smith-Berry's Web site at [www.smithberrywinery.net](http://www.smithberrywinery.net).

Visit [www.kyagr.com/pr/AgFund.htm](http://www.kyagr.com/pr/AgFund.htm) for more success stories.