

The Commonwealth Grows



Volume 11, Issue 1
Winter/Spring 2011

Logo Unveiled

Participants at the 2011 GOAP Conference witnessed the unveiling of the new Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund logo, which will be used to increase awareness of the benefits and impact provided by the fund to the Commonwealth.

See page 3 for more information



Did you know...?

- There are more than 37,000 sheep in Kentucky's flock
- Kentucky produces more than 1.1 million eggs

2011 GOAP Conference Highlights

In spite of a record snowfall for Bowling Green, more than 300 attended the 2011 GOAP Conference held at the Sloan Convention Center on Feb. 10.

Those who braved the cold and snow heard state and national dignitaries share their view on the state of agriculture, participate in sessions on industry issues like local foods and energy, honor the service of many supporters of the Agricultural

Development Fund and exchange ideas and information with others from across the Commonwealth.

Dignitaries Discuss Agriculture

Governor Steve Beshear welcomed participants to the conference and shared various agriculture accomplishments made in the last three years, as well as a charge to his staff and the agricultural development board to begin looking at regional opportunities in agriculture. (See page 8 for more about the Governor's speech.)

On her third trip to the Commonwealth, USDA Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan shared the view of agriculture from USDA's perspective. After speaking, Gov. Beshear presented Dr. Merrigan with a citation, recognizing her as a Kentucky Colonel.

During the conference's awards luncheon, First Lady Jane Beshear talked about initiatives she's involved with including encouraging purchases of local foods in schools, buying local and the Governor's Gardens. Mrs. Beshear also assisted in the presentation of the awards honoring several agricultural leaders and supporters.

Award Winning Service

Fifteen awards were presented by the First Lady and GOAP Executive Director Roger Thomas, during the conference luncheon. The awards were presented to outstanding agricultural leaders who have played a role in the past two years in helping continue the important initiatives of the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund.

(Continued on page 2)

What's Inside?

County Awards	2
Programs	3
Council Corner	3
Investments	4
KAFC	6
Public Affairs	8
Innovation Awards	9
Announcements	10
Upcoming Events	11
Spotlight Story	12



Gov. Beshear presents USDA Deputy Secretary Merrigan with her Kentucky Colonel Commission.

Photo: Kentucky Office of Creative Services



Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund

Winning Leaders

Outstanding County Council Members

First Lady Jane Beshear and GOAP Executive Director Roger Thomas presented awards to the top seven Council Members who have shown dedication to the agricultural development process and have contributed to meeting the needs of their county's agricultural community.

Photos: Ky. Office of Creative Services

District 3:
Rob McClanahan
(Pendleton Co.)



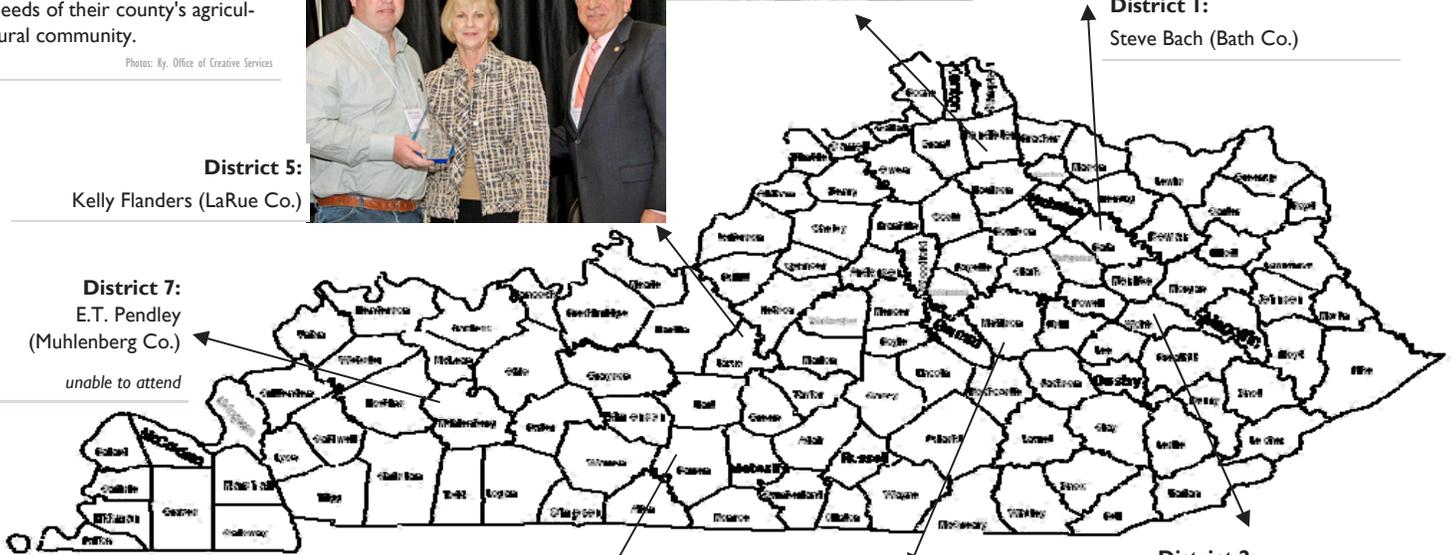
District 1:
Steve Bach (Bath Co.)

District 5:
Kelly Flanders (LaRue Co.)



District 7:
E.T. Pendley
(Muhlenberg Co.)

unable to attend



District 2:
David Kash (Wolfe Co.)
unable to attend

District 6:
Neil Allen (Barren Co.)



District 4:
Eddie Warren (Madison Co.)



Continued from page 1

Conference (cont.)

Show Me Energy!

To wrap up a day of learning and networking, Steve Flick of Show Me Energy Cooperative in Missouri and Wayne Hunt of Commonwealth Agri-Energy in Hopkinsville spoke about investing in local communities and creating farmer-financed value-added opportunities, including renewable energy. ☺



Outstanding Extension Agent:
Clint Hardy (Davies Co.)

This award recognizes the outstanding work of an Extension Agent who has shown visible dedication to the Agricultural Development Fund process and has lead their local county council in making significant contributions towards the needs of their local agricultural community.

Program Notes

Compliance Report

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

Out of 836 projects approved to date, 47% have completed their reporting requirements. The remaining projects are in the monitoring phase, meaning they are required to provide periodic reports about the progress of their project. Failure to report could result in denial of funding for future projects or delay the release of funds on current projects.

Of the 3,125 approved established programs, which include cost-share assistance, deceased

farm animal assistance and shared-use, 92% are complete, which means that they have completed their reporting requirements.

Transparency

GOAP has a new on-line search tool to help increase transparency in the funding provided through the County Agricultural Investment Program.

The new search feature allows users to search by county, investment area, producer's last name and/or year. Because of the changes in the "producer definition", only information from 2009 forward will be available on the search site. Data will be updated on a quarterly basis.

Visit agpolicy.ky.gov or the following direct short link: <http://go.usa.gov/2wF>. ☞

Farmers' Market Funds

Community farmers' markets interested in building a new permanent structure for their market have until June 24, 2011 to apply for a new competitive grant program.

The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board has made available up to \$250,000 for the *2011 Farmers' Market Infrastructure Competitive Grant Program*. The program provides an opportunity for local farmers' markets to access state Kentucky Agricultural Development Funds for the construction of new permanent facilities for their markets.

The farmers' market program is a competitive program, meaning that all applications for this program will be scored, ranked and awarded at the same time. All applications meeting the minimum score will be considered for funding. If the total eligible applications exceed the available funds, then applications with the highest scores will be approved, until funds are exhausted. Awards will be announced in September.

Visit agpolicy.ky.gov or call (502) 564-4627. ☞



Logo Usage

The KADF logo is for promotion of events and projects related to or supported by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund. It is one way we can all increase awareness about the importance and impact of The Fund.

For details on logo use contact Angela Blank at angelag.blank@ky.gov or visit agpolicy.ky.gov to download images and usage guide.

County Council Corner

Administrative Funds:

Counties with an annual allocation of \$20,000+ may request up to 4% of the annual allocation, not to exceed \$15,000, for costs associated with the administration of the council.

To achieve the highest level of accountability of all tobacco settlement monies devoted to agriculture, a short report is being sent out from Karen Ramage at UK to all counties that received these funds in 2010. This report will help in assessing how these funds are being used.

The request for 2011 will be sent out around June for those who are considering putting in a request.

Contact your county's Project Analyst at (502) 564-4627 if you have any questions. ☞

The Law

The County Councils were established under Kentucky Revised Statutes (KRS) 248.721. This statute establishes the make-up of the council and duties of the council, including development of local agriculture plan.

The statutes governing the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund are KRS 248.701 to 248.727.

All Kentucky statutes may be found at www.lrc.ky.gov.

Application Deadlines

All applications, including amendments to existing programs / projects, are **due the last Friday** of the month. Projects will be referred to committee at the next meeting and programs are eligible for consideration.

For consideration in...

April 2011:

Was due March 25

May 2011:

Due April 29

June 2011:

Due May 31*

July 2011:

Due June 24

August 2011:

Due July 29

September 2011:

Due August 26

October 2011:

Due September 30

November 2011:

Due October 28

December 2011:

Due November 28*

* Because state offices will be closed on the last Friday, an alternate date has been selected.

Investments

Between October 2010 and February 2011, the KADB approved a total of \$12,710,143 in state and county agricultural development funds in projects and programs across the Commonwealth, representing 54 of more than 3,700 projects approved since 2001.

Agriculture Leadership & Promotion

Wayne County Pork Producers, on behalf of the Wayne County Women in Agriculture
\$2,000 in Wayne County funds

Cattle Handling

Butler County Stockman's Assoc.
\$10,000 in Butler County funds

Cattle Marketing & Education Initiatives

Kentucky Beef Network LLC
\$1,916,529 in state funds

Certified Kitchen Renovation

Estill County Extension District Public Properties Corporation
\$24,000 in Estill County funds

Community Farming Center

Bardstown Mills Inc
\$10,000 in Nelson County funds

Dairy Development

Kentucky Dairy Development Council Inc.
\$1,641,095 in state funds

Farm Safety Course

Jessamine County FFA Alumni Association Inc.
\$5,000 in Jessamine County funds



Marian Guinn and Tamara Sandburg hold their KADF logo sign during the Kentucky Association of Food Banks' recipient orientation.

Staff Photo

Farm to Food Banks

Ky, Association of Food Banks Inc.
\$163,000 in state funds

Farmer Welding Program

Grayson County Conservation District
\$6,000 in Grayson County funds

Farmers' Market Study

Heart of Scottsville Inc.
\$12,500 in Allen County funds

Grain Production Research

UK Research Foundation, on behalf of the UK Princeton Research and Education Center
\$84,276 in state funds
\$41,391 in county funds

Greenhouse Development

ATP Greenhouses LLC
\$4,000 in Butler County funds

High School Greenhouse

Crittenden County Board of Education
\$21,000 in Crittenden Co. funds

High School Greenhouse Expansion

Allen County Board of Education
\$35,000 in Allen County funds

Horticulture Research, Development & Marketing

Kentucky Horticulture Council
\$1,440,000 in state funds

Kentucky Agricultural Council

Kentucky Agricultural Council
\$125,000 in state funds

Kentucky Proud Program

Ky. Department of Agriculture
\$2,830,500 in state funds

Mesonet Climatological Data Collection

WKU Research Foundation Inc.
\$2,315 in Hardin County funds
\$2,315 in Barren County funds

Produce Consolidation, Shipping Facility

Scott B. Shackelford
\$24,500 in Todd County funds

Slaughter, Processing Facility Construction

C & C Processing LLC
\$5,000 in Grayson County funds
\$5,000 in Hart County funds
up to \$15,000 in state funds

Mission Statement

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.

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.

The following is a list of counties and amounts committed to CAIP from Oct. 2010 to Feb. 2011.

Barren	\$325,000
Bath	\$353,000
Boone	\$279,518
Boyd	\$ 7,000
Boyle	\$280,000
Breckinridge	\$180,000
Carroll	\$210,000
Green	\$450,000
Harrison	\$230,000
Kenton	\$104,808
LaRue	\$135,000
Lee	\$ 78,800
Menifee	\$ 43,500
Montgomery	\$200,000
Owsley	\$312,700
Pulaski	\$400,000
Rockcastle	\$122,000
Russell	\$ 90,980
Washington	\$382,500
Whitley	\$ 37,634



In-line bale wrapper demonstration at a county field day.

Staff Photo

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.

Boyle County Farm Bureau	\$7,500
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The following county Fiscal Courts were approved for this program:

Christian Co.	\$7,500
Garrard Co.	\$2,500
Mercer Co.	\$5,000
Montgomery Co.	\$7,500
Pulaski Co.	\$7,500

The following county Conservation Districts were approved for this program:

Allen Co.	\$7,500
Madison Co.	\$7,500
Scott Co.	\$7,500
Woodford Co.	\$7,500

Shared-use Equipment Programs

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

Boyd County Conservation District	\$ 9,000
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for the purchase of a no-till drill

Grant County Conservation District	\$ 8,500
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for the purchase of lime spreader

Madison County Farm Bureau	\$16,650
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for the purchase of an in-line hay wrapper

Menifee County Conservation District	\$13,400
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for the purchase of a two lime spreaders



Photo: Kentucky Office of Creative Services

Outstanding Program Administrator:

Stacy Marksberry, Green River Area Beef Improvement Group (GRABIG)

This award recognizes the outstanding work of one of the state's program administrators. This award is selected based on communication with Agricultural Development Board staff, fulfilling reporting requirements, communication with individual applicants and general administration of the program(s).

Innovations in Agriculture:

Two awards were given for agricultural entrepreneurs who have demonstrated forward thinking in their projects submitted to the Agricultural Development Board.



Photo: Kentucky Office of Creative Services

Marksberry Farm Market

John-Mark Hack and Richard McAllister



Photo: Kentucky Office of Creative Services

Kentucky Proud Program:

Commissioner Richie Farmer and Mac Stone

K AFC Update



As of February 28, K AFC has approved 362 loans and committed more than \$42.7 million.

Program Changes

At the February meeting, the K AFC board moved \$1 million from the Agricultural Processing Loan program to the Beginning Farmer Loan program.

At that same meeting, they revised the Large/Food Animal Veterinary Loan program to include "working capital" to make it consistent with other loan programs. ☺

During their meetings from October 2010 to February 2011, the Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation (K AFC) approved more than \$1.6 million in loans for 16 projects across the Commonwealth.

Agricultural infrastructure loans totaled \$257,682 and included recipients in Adair, Daviess, Fayette, Metcalfe and Washington counties.

Agricultural processing loans totaled \$226,582 and included a recipient in Garrard County.

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. Beginning farmer loans totaled \$866,575 and included recipients in Daviess, Fulton, Graves, Henderson, Jefferson and Washington counties.

Low-interest financing is available to **beginning agri-entrepreneurs** who are attempting to diversify their farming operations. DEAL* loans totaled \$47,500 and included a recipient from Grayson County.

Large/Food animal veterinary loans totaled \$210,000 and included recipients in Estill, Metcalfe and Shelby counties.

**Diversification through Entrepreneurship in Agriculture Loan program.*

Meetings & Deadlines

For consideration on...

May 13, 2011:

Due April 22

June 3, 2011:

Due May 13

July 22, 2011:

Due July 1

Sept. 2, 2011:

Due Aug. 12

Oct. 19, 2011:

Due Sept. 30

Dec. 2, 2011:

Due Nov. 11

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

Wayne Hunt
Grain Farmer, ADB Liaison

Larry Jiggers
Dairy Farmer

Doug Lawson
Commercial Lender

Joel Oney
Financial Services Officer

Frank A. Penn
Equine Representative

Peggy Peterson
Financial Services Officer

Bob D. Proffitt
Horticulture Producer

K AFC Presents Awards



K AFC Distinguished Agriculture Lender:

Mike Mullican, Independence Bank

This award recognizes the outstanding work of a participating agriculture lender who has shown visible dedication to providing access to capital for farmers by providing K AFC's loan programs as a way to meet the needs of their local agricultural Community.



K AFC Distinguished Agri-Entrepreneur:

Melissa Lipps, DVM Shelby Veterinary Clinic

This award recognizes agricultural entrepreneurs who have demonstrated forward thinking in their projects submitted to the Agricultural Finance Corporation.



CWG Spotlight (cont.)

(Continued from back page)

As his customer demand grew so did his operation, soon the family had eight greenhouses at two locations on the farm.

A New Direction

Mark knew that the existing farm set-up, with greenhouses on two locations at the farm and no central market for customers, was not the most efficient way to operate the business. He decided if the family business was going to grow he needed to look at how to create a true destination location to expand his customer base.

"I started doing research about four years ago and then two years ago we began developing our business plan for the new market and expansion," explained Mark. "It was around that time that we brought KCARD to the table to help us with our business planning."

KCARD staff worked with the Owens family to take their research and ideas and develop a business plan. They also worked with the family to identify opportunities for grant and loan funds through both state and federal programs.

"Mark came to us with more than just an idea, he had financial projections and benchmarks for the market," explained Brent Lackey, KCARD business development specialist. "We were able to work with him to take the informa-

tion he had and put it into a business plan that he could use to secure grant and loan funds."

The hard work and dedication paid off for the Owens family. They secured a zero-interest loan through the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund and a low-interest loan through the KY Ag Finance Corporation. In addition, they also received an ARRA* On-farm Energy Efficiency Grant from GOAP and a USDA Energy Efficiency Grant to allow them to meet the most energy efficient standards in the horticulture industry by installing state-of-the-art equipment including an energy curtain and a bio-thermo heating systems.

A Family Farm Market

"We will be opening the doors at our new market on April 30," said Mark smiling. "After years of hard work it is exciting to see everything finally come together."

The new marketing center and greenhouse includes a 16,000 square foot building with a retail market and larger display area for seasonal flowers. The building will open up to the greenhouses which will house the Owens' wide selection of transplants, annuals, perennials, shrubs and trees.

"This isn't just about the new building, we are making the new market an agritourism destination for our customers," said Ian, the new market manager. "We



Mark Owens (L) with his sons Tyler and Ian in one of their Pulaski County greenhouses.

are planning to have educational workshops at the retail market on such topics as container gardening, raised beds, herb gardens, cut flowers, and even some cooking workshops when produce is in season."

Education is one way the Owens family sets themselves apart from the large box stores. The family will not only host workshops, but they will be at the market every day to share their knowledge of the products they carry with their customers.

While the new market and greenhouses are a big step for this family farming operation, all three Owens men agree it is just the beginning.

Visit Owens Garden Center at 735 Lantham Road outside Somerset. Customers can also go on-line and visit www.owensgardencenter.com for directions and more information on the selection of products at the market. ☞

* American Recovery & Reinvestment Act

The Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development fosters business success and growth by developing and delivering technical assistance and by providing educational opportunities for agricultural and rural businesses seeking to enhance their economic opportunities. For more information visit www.kcard.info.

Owens Garden Center, new on-farm retail center just outside Somerset.



Photo: Owens

Ky. Senate Agriculture Committee

Sen. David Givens, Chair
 Sen. Vernie McGaha, Vice Chair
 Sen. Joe Bowen
 Sen. Carroll Gibson
 Sen. Paul Hornback
 Sen. Robert J. (Bob) Leeper
 Sen. Dennis Parrett
 Sen. Joey Pendleton
 Sen. Dorsey Ridley
 Sen. Damon Thayer
 Sen. Robin L. Webb
 Sen. Ken Winters

Ky. House Agriculture & Small Business Committee

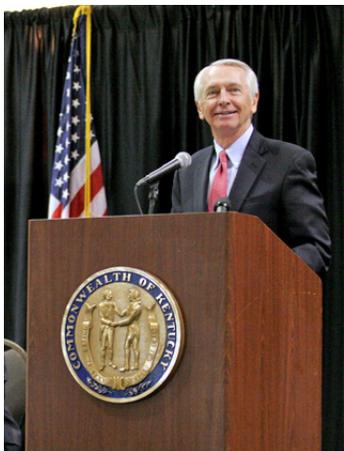
Rep. Tom McKee, Chair
 Rep. Royce W. Adams, Vice Chair
 Rep. John A. Arnold, Jr., Vice Chair
 Rep. Mike Denham, Vice Chair
 Rep. C. B. Embry, Jr., Vice Chair
 Rep. Richard Henderson, Vice Chair
 Rep. Terry Mills, Vice Chair
 Rep. Johnny Bell
 Rep. John "Bam" Carney
 Rep. Mike Cherry
 Rep. James R. Comer Jr.
 Rep. Will Coursey
 Rep. Jim DeCesare
 Rep. Myron Dossett
 Rep. Jim Glenn
 Rep. Sara Beth Gregory
 Rep. Kim King
 Rep. Martha Jane King
 Rep. Michael Meredith
 Rep. Brad Montell
 Rep. Fred Nesler
 Rep. David Osborne
 Rep. Sannie Overly
 Rep. Ryan Quarles
 Rep. Tom Riner
 Rep. Steven Rudy
 Rep. Rita Smart
 Rep. Wilson Stone
 Rep. Tommy Turner
 Rep. Susan Westrom

Tobacco Settlement Fund Oversight

Sen. Carroll Gibson, Co-Chair
 Rep. Wilson Stone, Co-Chair
 Sen. David Givens
 Sen. Paul Hornback
 Sen. Vernie McGaha
 Sen. Dennis Parrett
 Sen. Joey Pendleton
 Rep. Royce W. Adams
 Rep. James R. Comer
 Rep. Tom McKee
 Rep. Fred Nesler
 Rep. Tommy Turner

Public Affairs

Governor Beshear Continues to Support Kentucky Agriculture



During the 2011 GOAP Conference, Gov. Steve Beshear pledged his continued support for aiding the Commonwealth's agricultural industry.

"For the past three years I have supported Kentucky's farmers, from providing funding to farmers hit hard by drought to providing incentives so farmers are a part of Kentucky's energy future," said Gov. Beshear. "I'm committed to giving our farmers the tools and resources they need to remain competitive."

Support for Farmers
 Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund: The Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund, chaired by Gov. Beshear, has provided more than \$71.4 million to almost 750 state, regional and county projects, including:

- More than \$50.1 million in direct farmer cost-share incentives;
- More than \$6.2 million to enhance Kentucky's official branding program - Kentucky Proud;
- More than \$655,000 to assist local farmers' markets.

Loans for Farmers: The Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation, administered by GOAP, has approved more than \$22.3 million in low-interest agricultural loans for farmers since Dec. 2007. These loans have gone to programs as varied as:

- Large/Food Animal Veterinary Incentives Loan—program addresses declining number of large animal veterinary practices by providing low-interest financing for veterinarians who establish or expand large/food animal services.
- Diversification through Entrepreneurship in Agribusiness Loan—program provides low-interest financing to agri-entrepreneurs who are attempting to diversify their farming operations through non-traditional means.

Relief for Struggling Farmers: In 2008, Gov. Beshear created the Kentucky Agricultural Relief Effort (KARE) initiative to aid farmers whose crops were devastated by late spring freezes and summer droughts. This initiative provided more than \$10.9 million in state and county funds to lessen the impact of future weather problems.

In addition, Kentucky has been hard hit by a catastrophic amount of weather-related disasters over the past few years. Recognizing the devastation that extreme weather conditions can have on crops, Gov. Beshear requested disaster declarations and assistance for farms as a result of the 2008 statewide drought, which affected all 120 counties; the 2009 winter ice storm and spring wind damage; and the 2010 storms that drenched the state and caused widespread flooding.

Assistance to Diversify Farming Practices: In 2009, Gov. Beshear combined 13 programs into a single unified funding entity, the County Agriculture Investment Program (CAIP), to provide farmers with incentives to improve current production practices and diversify farming operations. 105 of 120 Ken-

“Agriculture is a cornerstone of Kentucky’s economy – providing jobs, food and energy.”

tucky counties have offered the CAIP program since its inception, providing more than \$24 million in cost-share incentives.

Fighting for Kentucky’s Farm Industries

Promoting Kentucky Products: Both Gov. Beshear and First Lady Jane Beshear have encouraged “buy local” efforts across Kentucky to boost economic agricultural growth, hosting the first farmers’ mar-

ket ever held on the Capitol grounds and incorporating a farmers’ market into the annual Governor’s Derby Celebration.

Fostering Energy Efficiency and Biofuel Production: Since taking office, Gov. Beshear has identified the increasingly mutually-beneficial relationship between farming and energy – two keystones of Kentucky industry and its future by establishing the On-farm Energy Efficiency and Production Incentives Program. To date, nearly \$1 million has been awarded in federal grants for on-farm energy initiatives impacting 90 farmers, multi-county energy initiatives and regional farm energy education events.

In 2009, Gov. Beshear established the Executive Task Force on Biomass and Biofuels Development to facilitate the development of a sustainable biomass and biofuels industry in Kentucky. The Task Force

issued a report that estimated biomass production and processing can generate up to \$3.4 billion of net output annually, along with 10,000 jobs.

Assistance from the Federal Government: Gov. Beshear also garnered support from fellow governors in urging the federal government to help struggling farmers in the dairy and pork industries. In response, the United States Department of Agriculture purchased \$30 million in additional pork for government feeding programs and increased dairy support prices, resulting in an increase of \$243 million in revenue for dairy farmers.

“Agriculture is a cornerstone of Kentucky’s economy – providing jobs, food and energy,” said Gov. Beshear. “My administration is determined to ensure farmers receive the support they need and to keep Kentucky a nationwide leader in agriculture.” ☪

Excellence in Energy Awards Presented

This award recognizes organizations and individuals who have demonstrated forward thinking in the area of renewable energy, related to agriculture.

Tim Hughes, Director of Biofuels DEDI



UK Biosystems & Agricultural Engineering
Dr. Douglass Overhults, Dr. Mike Montross, Dr. Scott Shearer, Dr. Sam McNeill



Photos: Kentucky Office of Creative Services



Rockcastle County FFA students join other community leaders to hear Gov. Beshear speak and present a check to the Rockcastle County Conservation District for a \$122,000 CAIP.

Staff Photo



Staff Photo

Important Contact Information:

Legislative Message Line
(800) 372-7181
TTY Message Line
(800) 896-0305
En Espanol
(866) 840-6574
www.lrc.ky.gov

Angela Blank

Governor’s Office of Agricultural Policy
Director of Public Affairs
angelag.blank@ky.gov

GOAP Conference Trade Show

A special thank you to the 25 agencies and businesses that participated in this year's trade show.

Chaney's Dairy Barn

Crop Diversification and Biofuel Research & Education Center

Eastern Kentucky University

Farm Credit Services of Mid-America

Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy

Kentucky Beef Network

Kentucky Dairy Development Council

Kentucky Department of Agriculture

Kentucky Division of Forestry

Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation

Kentucky FFA Foundation Inc.

Kentucky Pork Producers Association

Kentucky Women in Agriculture

KFGC Biomass for Energy Project

Monty's Plant Food

Siemer Milling Company

The Beef Connection

The Farmer's Pride

UK Regulatory Services

USDA Farm Service Agency

USDA NASS Kentucky Field Office

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

USDA Rural Development

Notice:

KDA has announced changes to the **Point of Purchase (POP)** and Restaurant **Rewards** programs.

Eligible entities may now apply for both programs during the same year.

For more information, visit www.kentuckyproud.com; click on "Grants."



Board & Staff Member Recognitions

Tim Hughes—named Director of Biofuels in Energy Cabinet

Wayne Hunt—received Gamma Sigma Delta Distinguished Service Award

Bill McCloskey—received Gamma Sigma Delta Alumni Award

Sam Moore—presented Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau Award

Mac Stone—named to National Organic Board



USDA Reminder:

USDA reminds landowners and producers that the general sign-up for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) continues through April 15, 2011.

For more information, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/crp or contact your local FSA Service Office.

Upcoming Events

Recurring Meetings

Tobacco Settlement Legislative Oversight Committee
First Wednesday of the month
www.lrc.ky.gov

Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation
kafc.ky.gov

April 1 :: Transportation Cabinet Office Bldg., Frankfort

May 13 :: TCOB, Frankfort

July 22 :: Hopkinsville

Kentucky Agricultural Development Board
agpolicy.ky.gov

April 15 :: KSU Center for Sustainability, Frankfort

May 20 :: UK Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, Lexington

June 17 :: Franklin County Extension Office, Frankfort



April 28 - May 1
Rolex Kentucky 3-Day Event
Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington
Contact: Christina Gray
christina@rk3de.org, www.rk3de.org

May 2-5
International BIOMASS Conference & Expo
America's Center, St. Louis, MO
Cost: varies
Contact:
www.biomassconference.com

May 8
Kentucky Derby Breakfast
Downtown Frankfort
(8 a.m. - noon)
Cost: Free
Contact:
governor.ky.gov/derbycelebration/

Coming Soon...

Ag. Development Fund Forums

Ag. & Rural Economics
Regional Projects
The Future of the KADF

May 19 - Kentucky History Center, Frankfort
May 24 - Maysville Community & Technical College
June 1 - The Rural Development Center, Somerset
June 7 - MSU Regional Enterprise Center, West Liberty
June 14 - Sloan Convention Center, Bowling Green
June 15 - Pritchard Community Center, Elizabethtown
June 21 - Kentucky Dam Village, Gilbertsville
June 22 - Daviess County Extension Office, Owensboro

* Each forum will begin at 7 p.m. local time.

The **2011 Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund Forums** will focus on "Growing Kentucky Agriculture." These forums will facilitate discussions between agriculture leaders, state and local officials, education professionals and others who have a vested interest in the goals and objectives of the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund.

Visit agpolicy.ky.gov for additional information.

May 17
Kentucky Primary Election Day
Visit www.vote.ky.gov, Kentucky's voter information site.

May 20-22
Kentucky Sheep and Fiber Festival
Masterson Station Park, Lexington
Contact: Sharon Koontz
(502) 227-0783
www.kentuckysheepandfiber.com

May 22-25
Alltech International Animal Health & Nutrition

Symposium
Lexington Convention Center
Contact: Request an invitation at www.alltech.com/symposium/en/Pages/default.asp

June 24
Deadline: Farmers' Market Competitive Grant Program
Postmark deadline
Contact: (502) 564-4627
agpolicy.ky.gov

July 21
UK All Commodity Field Day
UK Research & Education Center, Princeton

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Spare a Tree



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CWG Spotlight...

**Owens Garden Center:
A Market for the next
Generation**

- KCARD Story Release

Mark Owens never imagined the long road that lay ahead for he and his family when they decided to build a new garden center on the family farm.

"I would have probably been content to do minor upgrades to my existing greenhouses, but I knew with two boys showing an interest in business I had to begin looking to the future," said Mark. "Of course I never thought four years ago when I started planning for the expansion it would take this long for our dream to become a reality."

Now only weeks away from the grand opening of the Owen Garden Center, Mark is the first to admit the work has been worth the effort.

A Young Entrepreneur

Mark began his career in agriculture almost 30 years ago when he decided to move from his home in Cincinnati to his family farm in Pulaski County.

"My parents were born and raised in Pulaski County, and when they moved to Cincinnati to work they kept the farms as an investment," explained Mark. "After school I decided I wanted to farm, so I came back to the family farm and began raising vegetables."

Mark was more than just a gardener. As an entrepreneurial young farmer, Mark looked at ways to be more efficient in his operation. He quickly decided not to go through a broker to sell his acres of vegetables and began trucking and selling his products directly to the buyer. He also saw cost savings in raising his own vegetable transplants and built his first greenhouse in 1985. Mark soon saw another business opportunity

when neighbors began asking if he had extra vegetable transplants they could purchase for their small gardens.

"First it was just neighbors coming out and purchasing vegetable transplants, but then the word spread," said Mark. "After a couple of years I started having people ask if I also had flowers, and that is when we decided to start raising flowers."

Mark realized he wouldn't have enough room in the single greenhouse to grow both his vegetable transplants and flowers for his growing customer base, so he built another greenhouse.

(Continued on page 7)

Grand Opening

April 30, 2011

Owens Garden Center

745 Latham Road
Somerset, KY

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