

# C-Notes

## FIRST VET LOAN APPROVED

In March the Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation approved its first Large/Food Animal Veterinarian loan. Dr. Melissa Lipps and her husband Joe of Shelbyville received the first low interest loan in this new loan program. Dr. Lipps is a partner in the Shelby Veterinary Clinic, which is one of the last remaining food animal practices in the area. With the low interest loan, they plan to buy-out the remaining interest in the clinic in hopes of continuing the emphasis on large animal medicine.

[More About the Vet Loan Program](#)

## BEGINNING FARMER SPOTLIGHT

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 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 and photos courtesy of Kara Keeton, Keeton Communications*

[More About the Beginning Farmer Loan Program](#)

## HOUSE KEEPING

### KAFC MEETINGS

July 17  
Transportation Office Building  
Frankfort, KY  
Regular Business Meeting

August 21  
Kentucky Exposition Center  
Louisville, KY  
Regular Business Meeting

**Payment Confirmation Statement**—Updated confirmation statement is now on-line to submit with repayments.

**Loan Payments**—It's the choice of each participating lender whether to forward payments as a check, ACH, or wire. However, we do ask that the payment for each borrower be separate from others, unless prior arrangements have been made with our office.

**Beginning Farmer Mentors**—Reminder that beginning farmer loan borrowers and their mentors need to meet once a quarter for five years.

[More Details](#)

Questions or comments? E-mail us at [govkyagpolicy@ky.gov](mailto:govkyagpolicy@ky.gov) or call (502) 564-4627.

*Please forward to your loan servicing staff who may not be currently on this distribution list.*

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Photo: Courtesy Sentinel News  
Melissa Lipps, DVM

## UPCOMING EVENTS

June 9 - 11  
**Kentucky FFA Convention**  
Lexington, KY

July 12-14  
**KY Conservation Convention**  
Louisville, KY

July 23  
**UK All Commodity Field Day**  
Princeton, KY



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

