KDA acts to curb ATV deaths

Commissioner: Safety training would save lives

By TED SLOAN
Kentucky Agricultural News

Ray Marcum was trying to be careful. He was driving his all-terrain vehicle slowly over what appeared to be a safe route. But he suffered an accident that left him injured for life.

Marcum, of Richmond, is one of hundreds of Kentuckians who are injured in ATV accidents every year. Kentucky led the nation in ATV deaths with 106 from 2002 to 2004, the Consumer Product Safety Commission reported last fall.

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture is trying to help. The Department has conducted a pilot ATV safety training course in a handful of Kentucky counties, including one at the Madison County Fairgrounds in February.

“Kentucky has suffered more from injuries and deaths in ATV accidents than any other state,” Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer said. “Our ATV education program shows people how they can minimize the risk of getting hurt or worse on their ATVs and still have fun.”

Organic pays for Burkesville couple

By CHRIS ALDRIDGE
Kentucky Agricultural News

Organic farming isn’t for everyone. It certainly isn’t easy. But for small producers looking to distinguish themselves from today’s mega-farms, Todd Elliott believes organic is the only way to go.

“I think it’s healthier for me, my customers, my land – everyone involved,” said Elliott, 33, who runs Sylvanus Farm near Burkesville, Ky., with his wife, Sarah Paulson.

“We have a 23-acre farm and raise about six acres of crops,” said Elliott, who also raises natural beef, chicken and pork on their farm, located alongside a curve in the Cumberland River called Salt Lick Bend.

“Being organic distinguishes our product from other people in the marketplace. It’s an excellent marketing tool for a small operation.”

Sylvanus Farm has met strict guidelines to be certified organic by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In January, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture was authorized to issue organic certifications on behalf of the USDA, making the KDA one of only 54 accredited certifying agents in the nation.

See ORGANIC, page 6
Scientists change disease surveillance method

Lessons learned in 2005 are resulting in some changes to how researchers plan to watch for the potential arrival of Asian soybean rust in Kentucky during 2006.

“Last year most of our activity was done in the field by the scouts,” said Don Hershman, University of Kentucky College of Agriculture plant pathologist. “This year, more of the work will take place in the laboratory.”

“Scientists in the Deep South found that it is nearly impossible to find low levels of soybean rust in the lower canopy by field scouting,” he said. “I can’t do it, and by the time you begin to see rust, it is too late to get complete control with a fungicide. What they found is that to detect the levels to make effective fungicide treatments requires incubation followed by microscopic observation.”

Last year, there was an extensive network of sentinel plots across the United States and Canada. These plots were planted early using varying soybean maturity dates, then were scouted extensively in an effort to watch for the disease. There were 37 soybean plots and several kudzu plots in Kentucky.

The number of plots will be reduced this year because it was determined a better job of gathering data could be done with fewer plots. Funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Risk Management Agency and the soybean checkoff are paying for the plots. Hershman is the southern coordinator for the National Sentinel Network.

There will be 20 plots in Kentucky, each containing an early and late variety to avoid maturing before the main soybean production season is in full swing. Greater reliance on microscopic observation in the laboratory and DNA and antibody testing, when necessary, will be done every other week until plants flower and weekly once flowering begins.

One of the reasons for having sentinel plots is to detect soybean rust before it gets into commercial fields. This gives producers time to treat their fields to stave off the disease. Hershman said 2005 research showed that producers will have slightly more time to spray their crops and keep them from being severely damaged than first thought. There is a three- to four-week period when the disease is getting established in the canopy before it enters the “explosive” stage that causes extensive damage.

Kentucky will continue to participate in a separate spore trapping network. Hershman said the system currently can determine if rust-like spores have been detected, but not whether it is the soybean rust fungus. Several spores were detected in Kentucky, but actual soybean rust was found in only one location in Kentucky - on kudzu in Caldwell County in November.

“What this tells me is that there is no relationship between these finds and what we can expect to see in the soybean crop,” he said. “Two, three, 10 years from now, we may have some very specific information as we learn more about the disease. I think for now, the chances of being able to tell you what any spore trap information means is next to zero. Certainly, do not use it for making any fungicide treatments.”

The prognosis for soybean rust in 2006 is uncertain.

Unlike 2004-2005 when very little of the disease was available for overwintering, this winter soybean rust is still being found on kudzu in 10 counties in Florida, one in Alabama and one in Georgia, so there is a greater chance of successfully overwintering. Weather conditions this spring and summer in the South will also play a role as dry conditions are not conducive to disease spread.

Some key sources of information can be found through the rust hotline, 1-800-321-6771, sponsored by the Kentucky Soybean Promotion Board, and through the USDA rust Web site www.sbrusa.net.

Pride of Kentucky Showcase will unveil slogan, Web site

Visitors to the Pride of Kentucky Showcase on May 4 in Bowling Green will find out why “Kentucky Farms Are Fun.”

The event at the L.D. Brown Exposition Center will be used to introduce the new “Kentucky Farms Are Fun” farm tourism slogan and the www.kyfarmsarefun.com Web site. The slogan was selected by the Kentucky Agritourism Advisory Council to capture the array of enjoyable activities available on Kentucky farms. The Web site provides a directory of Farm Fun Places where Kentucky families can visit.

The Pride of Kentucky Showcase will feature destinations that offer fun family experiences down on the farm. It will feature live music, pony rides, John Deere Land, the Barn Yard Bash and other activities. Kentucky Proud foods will be prepared during the Pride of Kentucky Showcase Cooking School.

The Showcase will run from noon-8 p.m. CDT. Tickets are $5 for adults and $2 for children 5 and older. Children under 5 will be admitted at no charge.

Kentucky Proud fuels store launch

The Showcase is sponsored by Cave Region Agritourism Inc., the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, Kentucky Farm Bureau, the Kentucky Agritourism Advisory Council, Hartland Equipment, Farmers National Bank, WBKO-TV and Commonwealth Broadcasting.

More than 200 Kentucky Proud farms and farm businesses are open to visitors. They offer petting zoos, horseback riding, Kentucky Proud foods, farm tours, live music, wine tastings and numerous other activities.

The Showcase will run from noon-8 p.m. CDT. Tickets are $5 for adults and $2 for children 5 and older. Children under 5 will be admitted at no charge.

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Big Apple will get a bite of Kentucky Proud food

By TED SLOAN

The Big Apple will get a taste of the Bluegrass State’s best on April 3 when five renowned Louisville chefs prepare a dinner with Kentucky Proud products at the James Beard House in New York City.

“Congratulations to these outstanding chefs on this great honor,” Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer said. “I am very excited about this opportunity to treat diners at the prestigious James Beard House with some of the best food Kentucky has to offer.”

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture and the Kentucky Cattlemen’s Association each are giving $500 toward the purchase of Kentucky Proud food products for the event.

The chefs are Dean Corbett of Equus and Jack’s Lounge, Peng S. Looi of Asiatische and August Moon Chinese Bistro, Anoosh Shariat of Park Place on Main and Browning’s, Daniel Stage of Asiatique and August Moon Chinese Bistro, and Shawn Ward of Jack Fry’s. They will prepare dinner using Kentucky Proud foods on display.

Award nominations sought

KAN staff report

The Dairy Products Association of Kentucky (DPAK) is accepting nominations for the fifth annual Kentucky Quality Dairy Producer Award.

The award recognizes the dairy producer or farm family that exemplifies quality milk production in Kentucky each year. The competition is open to all Kentucky dairy producers. The award considers weighted averages of somatic cell count, standard plate count, and other criteria. Applications may be submitted by producers themselves or by professionals who serve the dairy industry such as dairy field representatives, veterinarians, dairy extension personnel, milk haulers, inspectors, and others. These individuals should work with the dairy producer to complete the application.


DPAK represents the dairy processing and manufacturing plants in Kentucky. Its membership also includes industry, technical, and academic representatives. The application and criteria are reviewed by a committee to determine the finalists for the competition.

The award also is sponsored by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the University of Kentucky and the Kentucky Milk Producers Association.

Applications are available through the UK Division of Regulatory Services Web site at www.rs.uky.edu. Click Milk/General Information/Dairy Quality Producer Award.

Applications will be based on criteria between April 1, 2005, and March 31, 2006. All nominees must have a valid permit from the Milk Safety Branch for that time period. All applications are to be postmarked or delivered to DPAK no later than June 15. Applications are to be sent to DPAK-David Klee, 514 General John Payne Blvd., Georgetown, KY 40324.

For more information, contact Eunice Schlappi, the KDA’s dairy marketing specialist, at (502) 564-4983 or Eunice.schlappi@ky.gov.

Top cattle coming for dairy shows

KAN staff report

Bigger and better dairy shows will greet exhibitors and breeders from throughout the United States at the 2006 Kentucky National Dairy Shows and Sales and the second annual Kentucky Kow-A-Rama April 6-8 at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville.

The Kentucky Nationals will offer $40,000 in premiums. Competitors in the Kow-A-Rama will vie for another $40,000 in premiums. Brown Swiss, Jersey, Guernsey and Holstein on April 6-7.

The Kentucky Purebred Dairy Cattle Association Judging School will be April 8 at 9 a.m. EDT. The PDCA school helps producers learn how to evaluate the quality of their herd and select animals that will improve the quality of their operations.

Some 300 exhibitors participated in the 2005 Kentucky Nationals. The inaugural Kow-A-Rama attracted 202 participants.

For more information, contact Mollie Tichenor at (502) 564-4983.

...
Contest raises kids’ ag awareness

One of my favorite things to do as the Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture is to hand awards out to children from all over the Commonwealth at the annual Kentucky Agriculture Day luncheon. This is when we honor the winners of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s annual Poster and Essay Contest.

This year’s Agriculture Day luncheon was March 22 in Frankfort. I had the pleasure of meeting the boys and girls who created the best posters and essays for each of grades 1-8 on the subject “Kentucky Agriculture: Growing for the Future.” These young people are bright, talented, curious and hopeful for the future. It was a pleasure to speak with each and every one of them.

Here at the KDA, we were struck by the fact that many of the posters and essays reflected issues that are at the top of the national agriculture agenda. Many of the students wrote or created posters about biodiesel and ethanol, which potentially could raise farm income and reduce our country’s dependence on foreign sources of oil. Others expressed concern over the need to keep farmland in agriculture. Some of the students wrote about their affection for farm life and their hope that they will be able to make a living in agriculture when they grow up.

These students are well-informed about the challenges facing agriculture now and in the future. For that, I want to thank their parents and teachers for taking the time to help our young people understand the world around them and imagine what it might be like when it’s their turn to lead.

These students also understand the vital role that agriculture plays in our everyday lives. That is the purpose of the contest and all the Department’s agriculture education efforts such as Agriculture Adventures:

Kentucky and the mobile science activity center. Most Americans today are two, three or more generations removed from the farm. It’s important that we start to teach our children at an early age that farmers, farm products and the farming industry matter to everyone.

We received a record number of posters and essays in the contest this year. You can see the winners on pages 8, 9 and 12 of this newspaper. The number and the quality of the entries give me great hope that Kentucky agriculture has a bright future.

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Four breed sales exceed $100,000 at Beef Expo

By CHRIS ALDRIDGE

Kentucky Agricultural News

Four breed sales grossed more than $100,000 in the 20th edition of the Kentucky Beef Expo March 3-5 at the Kentucky Exposition Center.

“Kentucky breeders continue to be very successful in showing cattle that command strong prices,” Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer said.

“Their hard work to improve their herd genetics is obviously paying off.”

The four sales that exceeded $100,000 were Limousin, which boasted the highest average of $4,228 per head; Angus; Simmental, and the pen heifer sale. Cattle were sold to producers in 20 states and one Canadian province.

“We normally have two breeds hit the century mark, but we’ve never had four,” said John McDonald, beef coordinator for the Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s Division of Show and Fair Promotion. “That’s pretty impressive.”

Sales topped last year’s in all categories. Sales of 484½ lots grossed $895,300, an average of $1,848. That was an improvement of 12½ lots, $86,685 (10.7 percent) gross and $135 (7.9 percent) average over 2005.

The top money-earner was the grand champion Limousin bull, FWLY Big Time, which lived up to his name by selling half-interest in its $32,000 value. Top Meadows Farm of Clarksburg, Ontario, and Tubmill Creek Farm of New Florence, Penn., combined to pay $16,000 for half-interest in the bull to consignor Fawley Farms of Lynchburg, Ohio, which retained half-interest.

Express Ranch of Yukon, Okla., paid $12,000 for a Limousin heifer consigned by Deer Valley Farm of Fayetteville, Tenn. Kentucky’s top money-earner fell just $250 short of the $10,000 mark. An Angus cow consigned by Branch View Farm of Hustonville sold for $9,750 to Logan Goggin of Danville, Ky.

Kentucky seedstock included:

- the top-selling Simmental consigned by Swain Select Farm of Louis ville, which sold for $6,500 to Larry Rogers of Vaidosta, Ga.;
- the grand champion Angus bull consigned by Ann Patton Schubert of Taylorsville, which sold for $6,000 to Homewood Farms of St. Charles, Minn.;
- in the pen heifer sale, a pen of three Angus open heifers consigned by Morehead State University, which sold for $6,750 to Tom McGinnis of Shelbyville, Ky.
- The top-selling Simmental consigned by Deer Valley Farm of Fayetteville, Tenn. Kentucky’s top money-earner fell just $250 short of the $10,000 mark. An Angus cow consigned by Branch View Farm of Hustonville sold for $9,750 to Logan Goggin of Danville, Ky.

Other top Kentucky seedstock included:

- the top-selling Simmental consigned by Swain Select Farm of Louisville, which sold for $6,500 to Larry Rogers of Vaidosta, Ga.;
- the grand champion Angus bull consigned by Ann Patton Schubert of Taylorsville, which sold for $6,000 to Homewood Farms of St. Charles, Minn.;
- in the pen heifer sale, a pen of three Angus open heifers consigned by Morehead State University, which sold for $6,750 to Tom McGinnis of Shelbyville, Ky.

The junior steers show had 282 entries from eight states. A Short-horn shown by Josh Greenwell of Waynesville, Ohio, won the $1,000 grand championship. The best of the 81 in-state entries were led by Kentucky grand champion exhibitor Morgan Phillips of Maysville and reserve champion exhibitor Call Carmichael of Richmond, who were awarded $500 and $300, respectively.

The junior steers show had 282 entries from eight states. Jennifer Smith of.kotlin.ks.com/Kansas/2005/12/12/add.html

The Beef Expo was co-sponsored by the Kentucky Cattlemen’s Association, Kentucky Farm Bureau, Farm Credit Services, Burkmann Mills, Nutrena, Merial, Pfizer and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

UK College of Agriculture

Fourteen 2-year-old Angus bulls will go on the auction block at the University of Kentucky Bull Sale April 8 at 10 a.m. at the UK Animal Research Center in Versailles.

The bulls have been wormed and vaccinated for Vibrio, Lepto, IBR, BVD, BRV, P13 and H Somnus. A breeding soundness examination will be conducted prior to sale, and only those bulls that are listed as “satisfactory potential breeders” will be offered.

All but one of the bulls meet the guidelines established in at least one of the cost-share categories for bull purchases through county agricultural development boards, and most meet multiple guidelines, said Darrh Bullock, UK beef specialist.

The calves were born on the UK farm and are the “cream of the crop,” Bullock said.

“For the most part, these are high productivity bulls with acceptable calving ease, birth weight and excel in growth and milking ability,” he said.

Detailed information on the bulls is available at county Extension offices across the state. For directions to the farm contact Bruce Hightshoe at (859) 873-6587, ext. 181.

A message to subscribers

First, thank you for your interest in Kentucky Agricultural News. Every quarter Kentucky Agricultural News brings you a report on activities of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture as well as highlights from Kentucky agriculture and previews of upcoming events. We hope you find Kentucky Agricultural News to be essential and worthwhile reading.

To serve you better and give you more benefit for your tax dollar, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture is considering converting Kentucky Agricultural News to a weekly e-newsletter to be delivered to your e-mail box. This would dramatically reduce the Department’s costs and enable the Department to provide you information on a more timely basis.

We want to know what you think. Please take a moment to contact Ted Sloan, managing editor of Kentucky Agricultural News, by phone at (502) 564-6676, ext. 247; by e-mail at ted.sloan@ky.gov; or by mail at Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Attention: Ted Sloan, 500 Mero Street, 7th Floor, Frankfort, KY 40601.

www.kyagr.com
Organic ways add value to Ky. couple’s harvest

Continued from Page 1

The organic industry is the fastest-growing segment of U.S. agriculture with a growth rate of 20 percent a year, according to USDA. The U.S. market is expected to exceed $30 billion next year.

“Organic certification allows producers to reach into a more specialized marketplace that commands higher prices,” said Jake Schmitz, the KDA’s organic program coordinator.

Sylvanus Farm is one of a growing number of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) operations in the state. About 100 families – most in nearby cities Bowling Green, Ky., and Nashville, Tenn. – currently purchase 70 shares of each year’s harvest in advance. Every week during the growing season, each shareowner gets a half-bushel box of fresh produce, culinary herbs and cut flowers, all usually harvested less than 24 hours in advance. Sylvanus Farm delivers the boxes to pick-up locations in both cities on 28 consecutive Saturdays from late April through early November.

“We had to cap the membership at 70,” Elliott said. “Almost every year, we have more people wanting to join, so we have a waiting list.”

According to Sylvanus Farm’s Web site (www.SylvanusFarm.com), a full share, or half-bushel box per week, is generally enough to feed a family of four or a mostly vegetarian couple. The cost ranges from $565 to $650 per year, with cheaper rates going to those who pay the furthest in advance. A half-share, or quarter-bushel per week, is generally enough for a single person or a couple that eats three or four weekly meals at home. The cost ranges from $354 to $390. Some families split a full share with another family.

“They get whatever is in season,” Elliott said. “We grow 60 different types of certified organic vegetables, so it might be anything from lettuce, cabbage and carrots in the spring to tomatoes, sweet corn and melons in the summer. It transitions, so it’s almost never the same two weeks in a row. We grow a large variety to keep people interested.”

Because it operates on a small scale, Sylvanus Farm specializes in gourmet and heirloom varieties of produce not found in most groceries. Elliott also sells naturally-raised meats – mostly Angus beef, free-range chicken and, for the first time this year, pork. “No hormones or antibiotics,” he said, noting the cattle eat a diet that is almost entirely grass, making their meat leaner and more healthful than their grain-fed counterparts. “I call it natural beef, pork and chicken because we use natural fertilizer on the pasture.”

Sylvanus Farm provides enough food for the CSA as well as for Todd and Sarah. “We eat a lot of what we raise,” Todd said. “We don’t buy much at the grocery store.”

Elliott started the CSA five years ago after spending his first year growing organic tobacco. Todd and Sarah are native Pennsylvanians who had no background in agriculture. He grew up in a Philadelphia suburb, while she was raised in Gettysburg.

A visit to see friends brought the young couple to Kentucky. “We came and stayed with them one summer and fell in love with the place,” Elliott said.

The couple started an organic garden 10 years ago and – through much trial and error and experimentation – developed the methods that they use today on a larger scale. Without the use of pesticides, Elliott is a big believer in crop rotation to keep pests under control.

“I believe when crops are grown in a well-balanced soil, they’re less prone to insect damage,” he said. “We are allowed to use certain natural pesticides, but we only use those on a limited basis. We also practice companion cropping, where we plant crops alongside that draw natural predators of the pests we’re trying to control.”

Elliott mostly uses composted cow manure and hay to fertilize his vegetables, supplemented by brown rock phosphate mined in nearby Columbia, Tenn. “We also use cover crops like cowpeas, soybeans, crimson clover – lots of legumes – to provide nitrogen, then plow it under in spring,” he said.

In the past, Elliott has hired local farmhands to help during the busy summertimes, “but it gets expensive pretty fast,” he admitted. The couple solved the problem by hosting summer “interns,” or apprentices, college-age people who work over the summer for a small stipend, in addition to room and board, in order to learn the trade of organic farming.

Elliott said the farm accounts for two-thirds of the couple’s gross household income. He farms full-time while his wife is an art teacher, giving her summers off to help with the farm chores.

“As far as the money goes, we’re doing pretty well for a small farm,” Elliott said. “It’s certainly worth my time.”

Kentucky organic producers can apply through the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to have their operations certified organic for a $125 fee. KDA is sponsoring a cost-share program that will reimburse producers for 75 percent of their fees, leaving producers with a certification cost of $31.25.

Producers with organic product sales under $5,000 a year must register for a $25 fee to market their products as organic. Registered producers must abide by national organic standards and are subject to an inspection at any time but are not required to be inspected and may not use the “USDA Organic” logo.

Jake Schmitz, the KDA’s organic program coordinator, advised potential applicants to first review the national organic rules. The national standards are available on the Web at www.ams.usda.gov/nop/NOP/standards.html.

To apply online for organic certification online, go to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s Web site, www.kyagr.com, and click on Organic Programs on the pull-down menu.

For more information on organic certification, go to the KDA’s Organic Programs page or contact Schmitz at (502) 564-4983 or jake.schmitz@ky.gov.
KDA seeks to stem tide of ATV deaths

Continued from Page 1

Marcum’s accident shows how easy it is to get hurt on an ATV – even when the driver is trying to be careful.

He and his 8-year-old son were riding his ATV with some friends when they started up a steep bank. He chose to go around the bank. He was moving forward at about 7 mph when the ATV ran over an old fence line. The wire tightened around the front of the vehicle and released, whipping across Marcum’s face and damaging his right eye.

He had more than 70 stitches around the eye. For six months he couldn’t open or close it. Two years later, he still has problems with depth perception in the eye.

“I’ve got some injuries I’ll deal with the rest of my life,” he said.

For all of his care, Marcum made two fateful mistakes. He rode without any prior training – the incident occurred during his first ride on a vehicle he had purchased from a neighbor – and he didn’t wear a helmet.

“I didn’t think I needed any training because I wasn’t going to do any hot-dogging,” Marcum explained. Now he thinks he wouldn’t have been badly hurt if he had taken some training and worn a helmet and goggles.

Riders in the KDA’s safety training course are required to wear helmets as well as gloves and appropriate footwear.

Dale Dobson and Jason Hodge of the KDA’s Farm and Home Safety Program have developed the course into a competition. Riders perform maneuvers around traffic cones topped with golf balls. Riders are penalized for each golf ball they knock down. They also are required to perform specific actions – such as inspecting the machine, checking the brakes before getting up to speed, and coming to a complete stop on command. They lose points for any such action they fail to perform correctly.

At the Madison County demonstration in February, the students asked several questions about what actions would result in a loss of points.

Former Miss Kentuckiana Maria Maldonado Smith, a Department employee, took the first ride. She was attired in a complete riding outfit that included helmet, boots, gloves, and body protection. The students followed her one by one, starting with a pre-ride check of the ATV and ending by handing the keys to an evaluator.

Later, local emergency personnel and two medical helicopters acted out a rescue of Mark Dyehouse, playing out the scenario of a rider pinned under an ATV that overturned. Rescuers removed the vehicle, stabilized Dyehouse and took him to one of the waiting helicopters as the Madison students, news media and others watched.

The KDA’s Farm and Home Safety Program has given programs and staged mock rescues in every Kentucky county since its inception in 1998.

The number of farming-related fatalities in Kentucky has fallen by half, from 50 in 1995 to between 24 and 26 a year from 2001 to 2004.

“Ray Marcum

I’ve got some injuries I’ll deal with the rest of my life.”
`Everybody eats vegetables and fruits`

In the future, farmers can stop growing tobacco because less and less people smoke. They can start planting vegetables and fruits instead of the tobacco. Everybody eats vegetables and fruits.

In the future, we need to stop using most of our land up to build more towns. If we run out of land for the farmers to grow fruits and vegetables, then we will have no food to eat that grows on land.

Carrie Ann Followell, First Grade
Glasscock Elementary School, Lebanon
*Ara Tungate, teacher*

`A lot of things will change`

In the future, farmers probably could raise more fruits, vegetables, milk and eggs. The extra fruits, vegetables, milk and eggs would be used to sell in stores.

Some farmers could stop planting tobacco. Instead, they could plant more food and trees to make houses for people.

Farmers probably sell pets to other people. Some pets they could sell are: horses, cats, and probably dogs.

Farmers in the future will probably tell everybody to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle. This would help us all by not having so much garbage.

Farmers in the future could raise more sheep to make clothes to sell in stores. Clothes made from sheep are: shirts, scarves, and hats.

A lot of things will change in the future.

Farming will too!

Becky Ito, Second Grade
Glasscock Elementary School, Lebanon
*Ara Tungate, teacher*

`A bright and beautiful future`

Sally gets out of bed and makes it, but does she know that her sheets are made from cotton? She’s using agriculture! Next she has breakfast. Again, agriculture! Her cereal, milk, bacon, and juice come from agriculture! She puts on her shoes, does her homework on paper, and takes a bath with soap. That’s **ALL** agriculture. In the future she may also be riding a school bus that runs on corn while her mom drives a car run ning on soybeans, and eating her after-school snack from a plastic bag made from corn. This is Kentucky agriculture growing for the future. Farmers and scientists are finding new uses for the things we already grow. Some other new uses include hand sanitizers, solvents, and house insulation foam from soybeans. These new uses are helping farmers make a living. They’re also renewable. All this shows a bright and beautiful future for Kentucky agriculture.

Lianna Spurrier, Third Grade
Chenoweth Elementary, Louisville
Darlene Horton, teacher

`I know agriculture will be a part of my future`

Just like kids are expanding with technology, so is agriculture. Today Kentucky farmers are moving into the future by using all kinds of technology such as satellites, computers, and sensors to help produce their crops. You may think space and farming have nothing to do with each other, but space is playing a powerful role in agriculture. Today, by using satellites in space farmers can receive weather information, estimate their harvests, and even guide their tractors! With the help of sensors, farmers can measure crops, minerals and moisture of the soil. Farmers can then store all their information on a computer. With all this technology farmers learn exactly what needs to be done to help produce a healthy harvest. Farmers today use many methods that were unknown in the past years. Farmers never stop learning. Their business is always changing. Farming today is a science that is growing toward the future.

I may not have grown up on a farm, but this doesn’t mean that I am not connected to agriculture. Someday I may have a career in agriculture. I may be a banker, a scientist or work at a job related to farming. Whatever the future holds for me, I know that agriculture will be a part of it as agriculture is growing toward the future!

Kacie Leachman, Fourth Grade
Utica Elementary, Utica
Jennifer Hayden, teacher

`I would like to continue to work on my family farm`

I am the ninth generation of farmers to live on the same farm in Clark County. When my ancestors came to Kentucky they raised mules and grains. That is how my family made their money in the 1700s.

Today my family still lives on the same 200 acres. We raise cattle, alfalfa, corn, and a vegetable garden. We also have some acres that could be used to raise other crops.

In the future I would like to continue to work on my family farm. I want to raise crops and animals that could solve Kentucky’s and America’s problems. It would be wonderful if I could raise crops so they could be used for fuel for our country’s automobiles. It would be even better if I could raise crops that scientists could use for medicine to help people live longer and be healthier. These could be renewable resources that would never run out.

When I look over our acres I think how they could be “Growing for the Future” of Kentucky and America. This makes me feel proud and hopeful for our future.

Zack Allen, Fifth Grade
Providence Elementary, Winchester
Shannon McCord, teacher
Growing for the Future

‘Endless opportunities for the future of Kentucky agriculture’

My grandmother was raised in Eastern Kentucky as part of a farm family. She often described the family meals as a bountiful harvest of foods grown on their rural farm. Their dinner table was always full of slices of country ham, creamy fried corn, and hot biscuits spread with molasses and washed down with a glass of cold milk. Her father used simple tools such as plows and hoes to supply an abundance of foods to feed his family. The family’s survival depended upon farming.

Many agricultural changes have occurred since the early 1900s. Many food crops are presently being used in technological advances such as biofuels and plant-based medicines. Ethanol is a clear, colorless alcohol fuel made by fermenting the sugars found in grains such as corn, grain sorghum, and wheat. Ethanol contains oxygen which contributes to a cleaner, efficient burning of gasoline. Using biofuels helps reduce our dependence on foreign oil companies. It also helps to save our fossil fuel supplies. The past has paved a road to the present that will lead to endless opportunities for the future of Kentucky agriculture.

It was once said, “The best way to predict the future is to invent it.” Education, technology, and training are the keys to inventing the future of the next generation of Kentucky farmers. It’s exciting to think that I live in a time when the possibilities are endless to what renewable agricultural products can be invented.

Zachary Hackworth, Sixth Grade
Louisa Middle School, Louisa
Kenra VanHoose, teacher
Kentucky Proud Essay

‘I say corn is the future of agriculture in the United States’

Take a look at Kentucky’s (excluding the Appalachian region) biggest agricultural export and cash crop, tobacco. Many people support their families by growing and selling it, but this crop has a limited amount of uses. Now think of a crop just about everyone uses: corn.

I believe a rise in corn growth and cultivation could be a component to the future of agriculture. You may or may not know that corn is the primary ingredient in many household products such as baby powder, batteries, deodorizing spray, charcoal, and many others. Corn is also used to make linens, diapers, soap, and you can even purchase a corn burning stove. Who would have thought the yellow vegetable could be such a diverse crop. Most products have some trace of corn in them.

This is where the tobacco industry comparison comes into play. With tobacco you’re only selling to one industry, but with corn you’re selling to thousands of industries. According to National Corn Growers Association there are at least 170 corn only suppliers in the United States. Whereas with tobacco there’s only about thirty.

So don’t be surprised when you’re driving to work on a snowy day as road workers put corn de-icer on the road, while you drive along on your corn tires. Yes corn tires. In fact, all Ford Fiesta’s in Europe are factory equipped with corn tires.

I say corn is the future of agriculture in the United States.

Scott Holston, Eighth Grade
St. Nicholas Academy, Louisville
Steve Finch, teacher

‘The whole world depends on us’

In the rapidly changing world, it is becoming more important than ever to produce more food quickly and economically. Farmers are using high-tech methods to increase both production and efficiency. They are using their home computers, utilizing both GPS and GIS using satellites to bring them needed information.

GIS is a computer-based tool for mapping and analyzing things that exist and events that happen on earth. Many farmers use computers, spreadsheets, and geographic information systems (GIS) software to analyze data and create maps. These maps can include such information as pH, nutrient levels, and land features such as hills.

GPS or Global Positioning System uses systems such as satellites to pin point locations on earth. Satellites continuously transmit signals that are monitored by ground stations around the world. These signals are received by any farmers with a GPS receiver in his or her tractor, truck or home computer.

Farmers use tractor mounted GPS receivers to record location. They use this information along with GIS data to determine how much fertilizer, weed control, and water is needed in various locations in the field. In precision agriculture, farmers use GIS and GPS to translate this information in order to make smarter decisions on how to improve their yields.

As the world population increases, American agriculture must meet global needs for food and fiber. We must also face a possibility of global climate changes. Using technology such as GPS and GIS will greatly enhance our ability to produce more food using natural resources and labor. The whole world depends on us.

Jessie Mamoth, Seventh Grade
University Heights Academy, Hopkinsville
Tracie Atwood, teacher
Pork producers honor KDA’s Beeler, Boone

KDA staff report

Warren Beeler of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture was inducted into the Kentucky Pork Producers Association Hall of Fame during the association’s convention Jan. 27-28 in Owensboro.

Rayetta Boone, another KDA staff member, received the Outstanding Service Award.

“Congratulations to Warren and Rayetta for these well-deserved honors,” Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer said. “Warren is one of the most respected figures in the swine industry in the United States. He and Rayetta both work hard for the Department’s youth programs, helping Kentucky’s young people learn and grow through agriculture. I’m proud to be associated with them.”

Beeler, of Caneyville, joined 15 others in the state pork producers shrine. A longtime swine producer, former KPPA president and nationally renowned swine judge, Beeler is assistant director of the KDA’s Division of Value-Added Animal and Aquaculture Production.

Boone, a resident of Taylorsville, was honored for her work as assistant director of the KDA’s Division of Agriculture Education, Farm Safety and Farmland Preservation. The division administers the Kentucky Agriculture and Environment in the Classroom program, the Mobile Science Activity Center and “Agriculture Adventures: Kentucky.”

Ag leaders honored at GOAP meeting

Governor’s Office of Agricultural Policy

Governor Ernie Fletcher and Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer presented the following awards to state agriculture leaders at the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund Annual Meeting in February in Louisville.

- Innovations in Agriculture
  - Commonwealth Agri-energy, Christian County
  - Shuckman’s Fish Company and Smokery, Inc., Jefferson County
- Outstanding Administrator of the Year
  - Larry Avery, Hart County Cattlemen’s Association
- Extension Agent of the Year
  - Bill Peterson, Mason County
- 2005 County Council Member of the Year
  - District 1, Dennis Perry, Rowan County
  - District 2, Jim Lacy, Wolfe County
  - District 3, Rob McClanahan, Pendleton County
  - District 4, Stewart Hughes, Scott County
  - District 5, Mike Shull, Grayson County
  - District 6, Royce Vincent, Edmonson County
  - District 7, Daryl Templeman, Todd County

Sheep schools start April 4

UK College of Agriculture

The first of three Eweprofit Schools at the University of Kentucky’s Animal Research Center Sheep Unit in Versailles will be April 4.

The first school, Eweprofit III, will focus on lamb feeding, from creep feeding to early weaning to finishing lambs in drylot or on pasture. April lambing techniques and managing ewes and lambs through the spring grass flush will also be presented.

Eweprofit I will follow on June 7, and Eweprofit II will be on Oct. 11. Preregistration is not required. For more information, contact Donald G. Ely at (859) 257-2717 or dely@uky.edu.

Junior livestock expos on tap

KDA staff report

Young livestock exhibitors from all over Kentucky will test and improve their skills at the popular junior livestock expos in June and July.

The Kentucky Junior Livestock Expo – East will take place June 12-13 at the Derrickson Agricultural Complex on the Morehead State University farm. The Western Rivers Kentucky Junior Livestock Expo is scheduled for June 29-30 at the West Kentucky Expo Center on the Murray State University farm. The Kentucky Junior Livestock Expo – West will wrap up the series July 21-22 at the L.D. Brown Expo Center on the Western Kentucky University farm in Bowling Green.

The expos will offer livestock judging clinics, a skill-a-thon contest, livestock judging contests, showmanship contests and livestock shows for beef, dairy, sheep, swine and goats. A Commissioner’s Award will be presented to the individual in each species with the highest overall placing. The top showmen in each species will compete in a round-robin contest in which they will show other species.

The junior livestock expos are open to any enrolled 4-H or FFA member in Kentucky with an approved livestock project. Youth ages 8 and under also are eligible to show in the novice class.

Ag board suspends application requirement

Governor’s Office of Agricultural Policy

The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board in March suspended a requirement that producers must submit an application for funding prior to purchasing a bull. The temporary suspension is effective through June 30.

The requirement was added to the Cattle Genetics Improvement Model Program last Dec. 15. It will resume for applications on and after July 1.

For more information, contact the Governor’s Office of Agricultural Policy at (502) 564-4627 or go to the GOAP Web site at http://agpolicy.ky.gov.
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

ANIMALS

WANTED TO BUY: Ewe lambs. Simpson Farms, (606) 561-6860.

FOR SALE: Registered beagle pups from active gun dog stock. Shots and wormed. Phone (606) 379-1516. $100-$135.

FOR SALE: Katahdin hair sheep. Registered and commercial. (859) 428-1491.

CHAROLAIS PERFORMANCE YEARLING BULLS. Sired by TT Real Tstryker 1953H. Very good EPDs with above average weaning and yearling weights. Good pedigrees. $1,200 each. Free delivery within 50 miles. River Ridge Farms. Call (270) 526-3323, ask for Greg, or e-mail glesweet@scrtc.com. Canner, Ky.

FOR SALE: Registered service age Halstein bulls. A.I.-sired from high producing, high testing cows. Jm-Mar-D Halsteins, 3638 Trimble Rd., AdaIrville, KY 42202. Call Jim at (270) 539-9072.


BOER GOATS FOR SALE: Registered bucks and nannies, fullbloods and percentages with papers, quality breeding and show stock, contact Larry Cole, Cole’s Creek Boer Goats, Bowling Green, Ky., (270) 777-0054 or (270) 535-0054.

FOR SALE: Registered Boer goats; bucks and nannies, fullbloods and percentages with papers. Garden Gate Boer Goats, (270) 325-2972.

MINIATURE HORSES, for fun and profit. AMHA registered. DNA’d horses of quality. Reasonable prices. Jean Daniels, Forest Farm Miniature Horses, 8080Subtle Road, Edmonton, Kentucky 42202, phone (270) 432-8836, e-mail a61853@scrtc.com, Web page www.minihorse.ws


FOR SALE: Registered Boer goats; bucks and nannies, fullbloods and percentages with papers. Garden Gate Boer Goats, (270) 325-2972.


FOR SALE: Purebred Charolais Bulls. Hamilton Charolais, Stamping Ground, Ky. Call Jim Hamilton at (502) 535-6203 or (502) 535-6974 or e-mail hamil535@sellsouth.net.

FOR SALE: Registered Angus bulls and heifers. Bulls eligible for 50% cost-share. Call nights (502) 863-6342, days (502) 221-3958.


FOR SALE: Lovable and friendly llamas, males and females of all ages, breeding pairs, stud quality/pet quality males. Guard llamas for small herd animals, sheep and goats. Over 10 years experience and expertise will serve you after your purchase. Call (859) 341-4188 or e-mail drycreek@fuse.net.

FOR SALE/Stud Service: Horses/ponies (all types), new/fixed trailers, metal roofing & siding, Mule Kote Paint, new/used tack (over 30 types), new/used trailers, metal roofing & siding. Reasonably priced. Excellent quality. Call for detailed information. Staley Farms, 3638 Trimble Rd., AdaIrville, KY 42202.


PLANS TO BUILD YOUR OWN BAND SAW MILLS. “The Lum-BRJak” can saw up to a 30” diameter log. The Yellow Jake II” can saw up to a 36” diameter log. Introductory information $300 U.S. or $400 CAN, U.S. cash or U.S. $ M.O. only. Builders plans/packets are $51 each U.S. or $54 each Canada (U.S. cash or U.S. M.O.) only. A builders 48 min. video w/53 page supplement book, same price as plans. Call or write Bill Rees, 7104b U.S. Hwy. 231 S., Croomwell, Ky. 42333-9605, (270) 274-3561.

SEEDS/PLANTS

FOR SALE, GARDEN SEED. Beefsteak tomato, excellent taste, good killer. Belgium tomato, can grow to 5 lbs. Golden Jubilee, yellow tomato, excellent taste. Greek cucumber, thin skin, crispy, good w/onion and vinegar mix. Specify choice. Send self-addressed stamped envelope plus $2 per choice per packet of seed to: Bob O’Flynn, 2931 State Route 1554, Owensboro, KY 42301.


FOR SALE: Arabian Coloring Book designed by country artist Diana Blair. $5 each retail or $3 for orders of 12 or more. Contact: Diana Blair, 370 Jenkins Rd., Bowling Green, KY 42101-9439, (270) 781-5751, FAX: (270) 842-0236.
2006 Poster Contest Winners

Dashawn Smith, First Grade
Walker Elementary
Monticello
Vicky Foster, teacher

Travis Dale Perdue, Second Grade
Col. William Casey Elementary
Columbia
Shirley Morrison, teacher

Cole Boswell, Third Grade
Utica Elementary
Utica
Cinda Cockrum, teacher

Colton Igleheart, Fourth Grade
Utica Elementary
Utica
Cinda Cockrum, teacher

Daniel Yeiser, Fifth Grade
Utica Elementary
Utica
Marsha Bivens, teacher
Kentucky Proud Poster

Taylor Dye, Sixth Grade
Owsley County Elementary
Booneville
Rhonda Becknell, teacher

Chesika Crump, Seventh Grade
University Heights Academy
Hopkinsville
Tracie Atwood, teacher

Benjamin Harper II, Eighth Grade
Franklin Simpson Middle School
Franklin
Melissa Willett, teacher