Churchill Downs is Kentucky Proud

Ky. menu for global audience

By TED SLOAN
Kentucky Agricultural News

Some 150,000 people from around the world will be enjoying beef from Henry County, pork from Washington County, cheese from Barren County and many other Kentucky Proud foods and drinks when the call to the post is sounded for the 131st Kentucky Derby in May.

Churchill Downs will offer a growing menu of Kentucky Proud products for its global audience on Derby week. The world-famous racetrack unveiled an expanded Kentucky offering during its fall meet last November.

"I am very excited about our continuing partnership with Churchill Downs," Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer said. "People from throughout Kentucky, and around the globe, will come to experience the best of Kentucky's rich food heritage. I am grateful to Chef Gil Logan for his dedication to Kentucky Proud products."

Chef Logan, the executive chef at Churchill Downs, estimated that the racetrack will buy $300,000 worth of Kentucky Proud products for sale on Derby week. Churchill again will offer Kentucky Proud beef from Creekstone Farms of Campbellsburg after a successful run during the fall 2004 meet. Creekstone, which has an office in Colorado and a processing plant in Kansas,
Growers and other agricultural stakeholders can pick up valuable marketing information at the third annual Ohio River Valley Farm Marketing Conference Feb. 22-23 at the Kings Island Resort and Conference Center in Mason, Ohio.

Presentations on Feb. 23 will cover marketing, branding, selling to retailers, business issues, certified kitchens, community food systems, chefs collaboratives, consumer trends and other subjects. The conference will open Feb. 22 with a Taste of Regional Cuisine, a sampling of local products and a panel of chefs and producers discussing the elements of a successful buying arrangement. Trade show exhibits also will be available.

Growers, entrepreneurs, educators, community leaders, local government officials and other agricultural stakeholders from Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana are invited to attend. Registration is $40 before Feb. 7 and $50 after that date.

WHAT: Ohio River Valley Farm Marketing Conference
WHEN: Feb. 22-23
WHERE: Kings Island Resort and Conference Center, Mason, Ohio

KAN staff report

47 food companies at Ky. Crafted

Kentucky Crafted: The Market will host 47 Kentucky food companies that will offer samples of their products at the 23rd edition of the annual show in March at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center.

The public show will be March 5 from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and March 6 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The wholesale show will be March 3 from 1-7 p.m. and March 4 from 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

Kentucky companies from Maysville to Cadiz and from Fort Mitchell to Williamsburg will offer cheese, salsas, jams, jellies, marinades, barbecue sauces, pickles, candies, honey, country ham, bison, popcorn and many other Kentucky Proud foods for the 12th running of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s food section at Kentucky Crafted.

In all, more than 300 exhibitors will be on hand for Kentucky Crafted in South Wing A with art, crafts, music and books as well as food.

Exhibitors in past shows have established contacts in other states and other countries at Kentucky Crafted. The event generates $2-3 million in direct sales annually.

For more information, contact the state Craft Marketing Program by mail at the Old Capitol Annex, 300 West Broadway, Frankfort 40601, by phone at (502) 564-3757, ext. 4801, or on the Web at www.kycraft.org.

Machinery, technology on display

The 40th annual National Farm Machinery Show will attract some 300,000 people to the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center Feb. 16-19 to check out the latest in agricultural technology.

Billed as America’s largest indoor farm show, the National Farm Machinery Show will feature nearly 800 exhibitors displaying heavy machinery, hand tools, computer equipment and other products. The show will also offer free seminars on the U.S. agricultural marketing outlook, agronomics and a weekend marketplace television taping.

The 37th annual Championship Tractor Pull, sponsored by Syngenta, is held in conjunction with the farm machinery show. The tractor pull brings some of the nation’s best drivers to Broadbent Arena. Tractor pulls are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. EST each day with an additional performance Feb. 19 at 1 p.m.

The National Farm Machinery Show generates $19 million in economic activity in the greater Louisville area. Exhibit hours are 9 a.m.-6 p.m. daily. Admission is free and parking is $5.

For more information on the National Farm Machinery Show and Championship Tractor Pull, log on to the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center Web site at www.kyfairexpo.org.

WHAT: Kentucky Farm and Vegetable Conference
WHEN: Jan. 3-4
WHERE: Holiday Inn North, Lexington

KAN staff report

Winter lambing school Jan. 25

The University of Kentucky’s annual winter lambing school will be offered Jan. 25 at the UK Animal Research Center near Versailles.

The school will focus on the essential skills producers need to manage ewes through the critical stages of late gestation, lambing and early lactation. New producers can learn how to manage ewes and lambs during the lambing season. More experienced producers will have the opportunity to review their established managerial techniques.

The session will run from 8:30 a.m.-12 noon EST. Registration is free and should be sent by Jan. 21 to: Winter Lambing School, 904 Garrigus Blvd., University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546-0215. For more information, call or email Don Ely @ (859) 257-2717 or dely@uky.edu.

KAN staff report

Fruit, veggie growers can get production tips

The 2005 Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference in January will give growers a chance to share ideas and learn from experts in fruit and vegetable production.

The event, scheduled Jan. 3-4 at the Holiday Inn North in Lexington, will be a joint conference of the Kentucky Horticultural Society, the Kentucky Vegetable Growers Association and the Kentucky Grape and Wine Short Course.

The conference will offer learning opportunities for beginners and experienced growers alike. Concurrent sessions will cover commercial tree fruit, greenhouses, vegetable production and farmers’ markets. Participants also will hear about heirloom vegetables and specialty crops, tree fruit integrated pest management, cut stem production and value-added processing, cooperative marketing, organic farming, and small fruit production.

Michael Judge and Mac Stone of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s marketing office are scheduled to present a produce marketing update on Jan. 3. Janet Eaton, the department’s farmers’ market coordinator, will lead a concurrent session on farmers’ markets on Jan. 3. The KDA’s Chris Kring will preside over a concurrent session on organic farming and gardening on Jan. 4.

Fruit and vegetable specialists from across the United States will speak to joint conference sessions on the first day. Special out-of-state speakers include Wesely Kline, Rutgers University Extension vegetable and herb specialist; Fred Whitford, Purdue Pesticide Program coordinator; Jerry Cajka, district director, Investigations, Midwest Field Office, Alcohol, Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau; Dave Lockwood, University of Tennessee Extension fruit specialist; and Alan Straw, UT small fruit and vegetable specialist.

Gwynn Henderson will speak on “Dispelling the Myth: Prehistoric Indian Life in Kentucky” at the banquet Jan. 3. The Kentucky Vineyard Society will host an optional “Celebration of Kentucky Wines” where participants may sample wines from 10 Kentucky wineries prior to the banquet.

Registration is $25 and includes a one-year membership in the Kentucky Horticultural Society or the Kentucky Vegetable Growers Association and entry into the Grape and Wine Short Course. The conference is jointly sponsored by the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, Kentucky State University and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

For more information, contact your local county Extension office or contact Mary Ann Kelley (270) 365-7541, ext. 216. The conference program is available at http://www.uky.edu/ag/horticulture/meetings.html.

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WHEN: Jan. 3-4
WHERE: Holiday Inn North, Lexington

KAN staff report

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University of Kentucky men’s basketball coach Tubby Smith, right, met with Governor Ernie Fletcher, left, and Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer in December to talk hoops and have lunch at the new Transportation Cabinet building in Frankfort.

Coach comes calling on the capital

The University of Kentucky College of Agriculture is hosting the Kentucky Beef Conference in January to help producers “Plan Today for Tomorrow’s Markets.”

“Planning for tomorrow’s markets now is a big concern among producers,” said David Herbst, UK Cooperative Extension agent for agriculture and natural resources in Adair County. “We will talk about how long this current market may last and what producers can do to position themselves and their business to benefit now and in the future.”

The conference will be Jan. 27 at the Fayette County Cooperative Extension office in Lexington.

Speakers will include Randy Blach, executive vice president of Cattle-FAX; Phil Meyer, owner of Bohannon-Meyer Insurance Company in Versailles and manager of Bluegate Farm in Fayette County and the Bohannon-Meyer Farm in Woodford County; and Dennis Walter, owner and operator of a beef cattle operation in Campbell County who serves in many leadership roles in the Kentucky Beef Council and Kentucky Cattlemen’s Association.

Participants also will hear from Bob Peterson, who raises feeder cattle and markets fed cattle for Pro Cattle in Iowa; Lowell Clifford, a beef producer from Harrison County who has a cow/calf herd on 375 acres; and Jason Sandefur, manager of Berle Clay Farm in Bourbon County, who was instrumental in the adoption of a certified pre-conditioned for health (CPH) sale in Paris, Ky.

The 2004 beef expo generated sales of $737,130, an average of $1,495 per head. Two bulls sold for $10,000 or more. Forty-four head of Angus averaged $2,270 per head, 23 Salers averaged $2,100, and 30 Shorthorn averaged $2,033.

For rules, catalogs, schedules and more information, go to the Kentucky Beef Expo Web site at www.kybeefexpo.com or contact John McDonald at the Kentucky Department of Agriculture by phone at (502) 564-4983 or by e-mail at john.mcdonald@ky.gov.

The Kentucky Beef Expo is sponsored by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and coordinated by the KDA’s Division of Show and Fair Promotion.

Gelbvieh added to Expo list

The Kentucky Beef Expo will add a breed show and sale in its 18th renewal March 4-6 at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center in Louisville.

Gelbvieh has been added to the list of breeds, bringing the total to 14. Exhibitors also will show and sell Angus, Beefalo, Charolais, Chianina, Limousin, Maine-Anjou, Hereford, Red Angus, Red Poll, Salers, Shorthorn and Simmental. In all, more than 600 head of top-quality show heifers, donor prospects and herd bulls will pass through the sale ring.

The expo again will host the Pen Heifer Show and Sale for registered or commercial cattle in pens of two or three head. About 110 head are expected for the popular pen sale.

The Junior Heifer Show and the Steer Show on March 6 will add awards of $500 for Kentucky Supreme Champion, $300 for Reserve Champion and other awards for third through fifth in each event. The top five exhibitors in each show will be awarded a total of $7,500 in prizes, including $1,000 for first place. The open show and Kentucky-owned breed champions and reserve champions each will win $50 and $25, respectively, as well as a banner. The junior jackpot shows are open to all 4-H and FFA members nationwide.

A cattle judging contest for 4-H and FFA members, a trade show and the bull and female display also will be offered at the beef expo.

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Conference examines tomorrow’s markets

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Participants also will hear CPH case studies presented by UK Extension Agricultural Economists Lee Meyer and Kenny Burdine.

Registration will begin at 9 a.m. EST and the meeting will adjourn at 3 p.m.

Registration is $10 and can be paid the morning of the conference. For more information or to pre-register, contact your county Extension office by Jan. 24.

Sponsors of the 2005 Kentucky Beef Conference are Elanco Animal Health, Kentucky Beef Network, Kentucky Cattlemen’s Association, Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Central Kentucky Ag Credit, Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation, Fort Dodge Animal Health, Pfizer Animal Health, Farm Credit Service and Kentucky Bank.
KDA’s work touches every Kentuckian every day

My first year as your commissioner of agriculture has been challenging and educational. Along the way, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture has accomplished many great things. Here are just a few.

The Department made great strides toward establishing an animal identification system that will enable us to trace an animal to its point of origin within 48 hours in the event of a disease outbreak. The need for this system really hit home when the U.S. Department of Agriculture reported an inconclusive BSE test in an American cow in November. At the Paris Stockyards, buyers heard about the announcement by cell phone literally moments before that day’s CPH-45 sale began, and prices suffered as a result.

Any system is going to create an additional expense for our producers, and I again will ask the General Assembly to help farmers pay for animal identification.

The Department responded to outbreaks elsewhere in the United States of vesicular stomatitis in livestock and sudden oak death in plants in 2004. We kept up the fight against West Nile Virus. If soybean rust attacks our crops in 2005, we’ll be ready.

The KDA’s marketing office helped more Kentucky food producers sell their Kentucky Proud products. Governor Fletcher and I announced a new program for state resorts to buy Kentucky Proud produce. Our marketing staff helped Washington County pork producers sell 12,000 pounds of pork to Churchill Downs on Kentucky Derby week. Our goal is to have everything that is sold at the Derby to be Kentucky-grown or-produced. Kentucky led the Southeast Region in agricultural exports with the assistance of KDA’s international marketing staff.

It’s been said that if you don’t notice a basketball referee, then he’s doing a good job. If that’s true, then our consumer and environmental protection office had a great year. The Department touches consumers every day through our regulatory activities, which include inspections of gasoline pumps, scales and amusement rides, just to name a few. Regulatory compliance is our goal, and our regulatory people work hard to protect the safety and well-being of the public. Like referees, our employees don’t always get the credit they deserve, so I want to publicly thank them for all their hard work on behalf of you, the consumer.

I am especially pleased that in 2004 the KDA participated in benefits for Dare to Care and Kids Café food banks and Court Appointed Special Advocates for children. We also diverted USDA commodities to help hurricane victims in Florida.

I’m proud of our professional, conscientious staff for everything they accomplished in 2004 to keep our farmers on the farm, lift the standard of living of our rural communities, and protect the consumers of Kentucky every day.

We face some serious challenges in the months and years to come. With the tobacco quota buyout, the state’s rural economy will never be the same. I like to look at challenges as opportunities that are waiting to be found, and the buyout is going to create all kinds of opportunities for rural Kentucky. The Kentucky Department of Agriculture is leading the way to help our farmers succeed and our rural communities prosper.
Aaron knows jack(s)
Kentuckian is selling donkeys to Mexicans to produce mules

By TED SLOAN
Kentucky Agricultural News

Donkeys and mules once were the backbone of Mexican agriculture. Over time they were replaced by machines, but now Mexican farmers are finding that the animals still are the best choice for some uses. They’re durable, they’re smart, and they can get to more places than the best ground-chewing vehicle—a must in the most rugged parts of the Mexican highlands.

A Kentucky producer is helping Mexico restore its stock of jacks, or male donkeys. Dr. Steve Aaron of A-Jacks Mammoth Jackstock Farm near Lebanon Junction is working with Mexican authorities and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s trade office in Guadalajara to sell jacks to Mexican farmers through the Mexican state of Jalisco’s secretary of rural development.

“When they harvest their coffee and other crops, mules can get into mountainous areas where they can’t use even a four-wheel drive,” Aaron said. “Last year they were unable to harvest all of their coffee crops, and when they looked for mules, they found they had none.”

Mexico has good horses but needs jacks to breed to mares to produce mules.

“I sold them on the idea to have their own gene pool of jacks and jennets [female donkeys] so they can become the mule production center of all Mexico,” Aaron said. “They jumped right on that. Originally they were just considering the importation of mules, which would have been only a short-term solution.”

At press time, Aaron was working out the logistics to ship the first load of 12 jacks to Mexico in early 2005. He will deliver the jacks to the border, where they will be transferred to a government vehicle and taken to Guadalajara.

Aaron plans to sell a total of 50 jacks to Mexican farmers. Jacks cannot be hauled nonstop on a long trip but must be off-loaded periodically to be fed and watered and exercised, Aaron said. That makes it necessary to transport them in small, manageable numbers.

Aaron, the medical director of the Kentucky Department for Medicaid Services, said this first order will allow better understanding of travel expenses, transport time and export procedures at the border.

Aaron traveled to Guadalajara in November to talk to producers and veterinarians about the advantages of acquiring jack stock and using mules in the field. He gave a lecture about the history of donkeys and mules from their origins in Spain, their many uses and their needs. The lecture drew more than 100 people. He also gave television interviews. Before he left, people were approaching him to place orders for jacks.

“I really think they’ve got more of a demand than they know,” Aaron said. Aaron credited the Guadalajara marketing office, which the department shares with the Economic Development Cabinet, for helping facilitate the sale. “I can’t say enough about Marcos Castillo and his crew,” Aaron said. “Everything they did was professionally done. Kentucky has to be proud of their efforts.”

State beef check-off approved; pork producers seek referendum

KAN staff report

Kentucky beef producers have voted to increase the mandatory assessment for Kentucky’s beef promotion program if the national program is terminated.

In a statewide referendum held Dec. 7, voters elected to raise the state check-off by a margin of 2,019 votes for to 442 votes against.

The referendum asked bovine animal producers to increase the mandatory assessment for the Kentucky program from 25 cents to $1 per head only if the federal check-off program is discontinued. Funds would be used for beef promotion, consumer information, producer communication, industry information and research.

The Kentucky State Board of Agriculture approved the Kentucky Cattlemen’s Association’s request for a referendum in its October meeting.

The United States Supreme Court on Dec. 8 heard arguments on the constitutionality of the national beef check-off and is expected to rule in the first half of 2005. A federal appeals court has ruled that beef producers do not have to pay the check-off fee. The Supreme Court ruling will affect other national check-off programs.

The $1-per-head national beef check-off raises about $85 million per year for promotion and research.

The Kentucky Pork Producers Association applied with the state agriculture board in December for a referendum to create a mandatory assessment of 40 cents for every $100 in swine sales if the national pork check-off program ends.

The pork check-off also has been challenged in court, and in 2003 a federal appeals court upheld a district court ruling that the pork check-off is unconstitutional.

Ky. companies get $150K for export marketing

SUSTA, KAN staff report

The Southern United States Trade Association (SUSTA) allocated more than $150,000 to assist five Kentucky companies in promoting their products internationally in 2005.

The funds are provided by a USDA-sponsored program called Market Access Program (MAP) – Branded. SUSTA’s MAP Branded program provides companies from 15 southern states and Puerto Rico up to 50 percent reimbursement for certain eligible international marketing expenses.

Kentucky companies that participated in the MAP program between October 2002 and September 2003 exported more than $62 million in agricultural products, the most of any state in SUSTA.

“This new funding will be invested to help Kentucky companies compete in the global marketplace,” Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer said. “We are grateful for SUSTA’s confidence in the Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s international marketing program and Kentucky’s fine agricultural companies.”

Two of the Kentucky companies are first-time applicants to SUSTA’s Branded program; the other three are returning program participants. Using the Branded funds, the Kentucky companies will promote products that include ice cream, alcoholic beverages, wood barrels and animal feed, for a total of more than $300,000 in overseas marketing spending.

SUSTA, a non-profit trade organization promoting southern U.S. food and agriculture products overseas, is funded by the USDA’s Foreign Agricultural Service. SUSTA’s goal is to increase the export of food and agricultural products from the South, and to assist small and medium-sized companies.

For more information on SUSTA’s programs, visit www.susta.org.
Moore re-elected to Ky. Farm Bureau post

B utler County farmer Sam Moore was re-elected president of the Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation at its annual state convention in December in Louisville.

Moore was elected to his seventh term. Marshall Coyle of Bath County was re-elected first vice president. Mark Haney of Pulaski County was re-elected second vice president.

At the Dec. 9 luncheon, Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer talked about the Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s achievements during 2004. “Thanks to support from people like you, the KDA has been at the forefront of helping farmers make the changes needed to succeed in a new world,” Commissioner Farmer said. “I think 2005 and, indeed, the next century can be better and brighter for all of Kentucky’s farm families if all of us involved in Kentucky agriculture work together as a team.”

Devan Marie Parrett of Elizabethtown and John Milton Sosbe of Cynthiana were named winners of the Outstanding Farm Bureau Youth competition. They each won $2,000 college scholarships and trips to Washington, D.C., on the 2005 Kentucky Farm Bureau Congressional Tour in February.

Chris and Brett Schalk, Fountain Run, won top honors in the Excellence in Agriculture Awards competition and will represent Kentucky in the national competition in Charlotte, N.C., in January.

Charlie Edgington of Lexington won the Farm Bureau Discussion Meet for young farmers. Edgington will go to the national finals in Charlotte, N.C.

Fun and fanfare at the FFA

The 77th National FFA Convention was held in October at the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center in Louisville. Below: Dale Dobson, left, and Mark Farrow of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture accept the FFA’s Distinguished Service Citation on behalf of the KDA. The Department has awarded funding to the FFA Foundation and provided staff and judges to the state and national FFA conventions. Right: An FFA delegate from Indiana tries his hand at roping at the Career Show.
Students will go on agriculture adventures

Educational program starts in the fall

By TED SLOAN
Kentucky Agricultural News

It's easy for kids to get their hands dirty. Soon, Kentucky schoolchildren will be able to get their hands dirty and learn about science and agriculture at the same time.

The Agriculture Adventures – Kentucky program will begin appearing in Kentucky schools this fall. It will be demonstrated at the Kentucky Cattlemen’s Association convention Jan. 8 in Owensboro and in pilot presentations during the spring and summer.

Agriculture Adventures – Kentucky is a production of the COSI science museum in Columbus, Ohio. COSI staff present an educational and entertaining program to schoolchildren and give them hands-on activities that enable them to discover agriculture’s connections to everyday life while also they learn science, technology, math, nutrition and other subjects.

“Agriculture Adventures – Kentucky is a perfect fit with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s other education activities,” Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer said. “COSI has more than 40 years of expertise in teaching children. It will provide valuable learning opportunities for thousands of children throughout the Commonwealth.”

“The program educates children about the origins of our food and fiber, and does it in a fun way,” said Rayetta Boone, coordinator of Kentucky Agriculture and Environment in the Classroom Inc. (KAEC), a nonprofit agriculture education agency administered by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

KAEC and COSI have signed a three-year agreement in which COSI will create and carry out the Kentucky version of its COSI on Wheels program. COSI is developing the Agriculture Adventures – Kentucky program with input from KAEC and the other sponsors. Agriculture Adventures – Kentucky will be similar to the COSI on Wheels program conducted in Ohio schools but with a uniquely Kentucky identity, Boone said. It will be tailored to meet Kentucky Education Reform Act standards, she said.

COSI has set a goal of 125 programs in a school year, Boone said.

COSI will receive $300,000 for start-up costs of creating the Kentucky program and purchasing equipment. The Kentucky Cattlemen’s Association, the Kentucky Pork Producers Association and the West Kentucky Growers Cooperative will pay the start-up costs. KAEC will pay COSI $50,000 per year for operating costs for the life of the contract. KAEC is seeking sponsors to underwrite the annual operating costs.

Participating schools will be charged a fee of $875 for a full one-day program that includes a skit called “Lunch Room Live” and a minimum of 10 hands-on work stations.

COSI will begin taking reservations in February. COSI schedules the mobile program a minimum of six months in advance.

COSI originally was the Center of Science and Industry when it started 41 years ago. It has provided fun learning experiences for 17 million people since its inception.

For more information on COSI, go to www.cosi.org.

For more information on Kentucky Agriculture and Environment in the Classroom, go to the KDA Web site, www.kyagr.com, and click on Education Resources in the pull-down menu.

Kevin Seymour of COSI, right, demonstrates a milking machine at Russell-McDowell Intermediate School in Greenup County in February.

A Russell-McDowell student tries carding wool at one of the work stations. The Agriculture Adventures - Kentucky program will go to Kentucky schools beginning this fall.
Cost-share funding now easier to get

KAN staff report

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture has made changes to its advertising and market development cost-share programs to make it easier for Kentucky horticulture producers to get cost-share funds. Applications for both programs have been improved to be more user-friendly, said Mac Stone, director of the Division of Value-Added Plant Production. Producers now may apply for cost-sharing funds through September for eligible expenses incurred at anytime during calendar 2005. The new process eliminates the need for applicants to fit their expenditures into a specific period of time, or round.

Stone urged applicants to read the new applications carefully to avoid a delay in processing.

The advertising cost share program provides a dollar-for-dollar match to assist marketers in advertising and promoting the sales of Kentucky-grown horticulture products. Producers can receive a cost-share match of up to $4,000 per calendar year. All advertisements must contain the “Kentucky Proud” logo to qualify. The program can help pay for signs, placemats for restaurants, radio spots, business cards, flyers, newspaper ads and other items.

The market development program has been revamped to support the development and improvement of new and emerging markets for Kentucky horticulture products. Market development cost-share funds now may be applied to trade shows, selected conferences and targeted marketing meetings. A trade show visit may be funded for up to $1,500 with the applicant providing 25 percent of the total cost. The program offers dollar-for-dollar matching funds for market development meetings (up to $1,000) and conferences (up to $750).

To obtain an application, contact the Division of Value-Added Plant Production at (502) 564-4983 or log on to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture Web site at www.kyagr.com and click on Horticulture on the pull-down menu.

The programs are funded by a grant from the Kentucky Horticulture Council.

Broad Run Vineyards builds winery, entertainment center

Continued from Page 12

The Kushners buy chardonnay and cabernet grapes from St. Vincent Vineyards. They also buy strawberries and apples from Kevan Evans of Georgetown to make strawberry wine and apple champagne.

Natives of New York City, Jerry and Marilyn Kusher came to Kentucky in 1954 as Jerry’s work as an engineer for General Electric brought them to Louisville.

Jerry’s engineering background often comes in handy at the winery. He formed the metal steps from the entertainment center to the wine cellar and converted milk coolers they bought from dairy farms for wine refrigeration.

Broad Run Vineyards wines can be found at The Liquor Barn in Lexington and Louisville, A Taste of Kentucky and Fern Creek Liquors in Louisville, and Old Crow Inn in Danville. They also are available at the Sheraton Resort and Spa at Lake Tahoe.

For more information on Broad Run Vineyards and other Kentucky wineries, log on to www.kyagr.com and click on the Country Store icon.
Kentucky prepares for soybean rust invasion

By TED SLOAN
Kentucky Agricultural News

Kentucky soybean farmers should keep up with the latest information on soybean rust and prepare to fight the fungus that causes the disease if it is detected in the Commonwealth next year, University of Kentucky researchers and Kentucky Department of Agriculture officials said.

“Soybean rust is right on our doorstep,” Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer said. “We are fortunate that it is approaching at a time when Kentucky’s soybean crop is pretty much all in the bins. Our farmers will have time to get ready for it if it overwinters close by or blows into Kentucky next year.”

UK researchers are educating county Extension agents about soybean rust’s appearance, where it can be found on plants, what conditions it prefers and other characteristics, said Jimmy Henning, assistant director for agriculture and natural resources with the UK College of Agriculture. Every agent in the state should be brought up to speed by late February, he said. A series of meetings will be conducted across the Commonwealth in January and February to help producers learn more about soybean rust.

The state Agriculture Department is exploring adding a soybean rust component to its education program for pesticide applicators. Continuing education units would be awarded if the new component is added.

A national soybean rust monitoring system is being established using “sentinel” soybean plots that will be planted ahead of normal planting time for soybeans, said Don Hershman, a plant pathologist with the UK College of Agriculture. Officials, researchers and Extension agents will be watching for soybean rust discoveries to the south to chart its progress and gauge when and where it might arrive in Kentucky, he said.

“We should have plenty of warning to do what needs to be done at the proper time,” Hershman said.

Between now and spring planting, farmers should review the UK and U.S. Department of Agriculture Web sites and other sources for soybean rust information. They should consult with their county Extension agents to learn how to recognize the disease and what fungicides to use if they have to spray for soybean rust, Henning and Hershman said. They said growers should make sure they have the proper equipment set at the proper calibration to apply the fungicide and determine in advance what fungicides are available from their suppliers.

Farmers need to be prepared to spray fungicides when and if the time comes.”

—Don Hershman, plant pathologist, UK College of Agriculture

Kentucky veterans honor KDA’s Hall, Ford

Two Kentucky animal health officials were recognized by the Kentucky Veterinary Medical Association in October for their efforts in combating animal disease.

Dr. Ed Hall, assistant director of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s Division of Animal Health, received the Veterinarian of the Year Award at the KVMA’s annual conference Oct. 7-10 in Louisville. Rusty Ford, manager of the division’s Equine Programs Branch, received a Distinguished Service Award.

“I want to congratulate Dr. Hall and Mr. Ford for these well-deserved honors,” Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer said. “Everyone in the Office of the State Veterinarian deserves credit for all they do to keep our animal industries free of disease and maintain a safe, abundant and affordable food supply for Kentucky consumers.”

Dr. Hall was honored for his leadership in developing the KDA’s agricultural emergency plan. Ford was recognized for his “devoted service to the veterinary profession, the equine industry and commodity groups” for his role in the investigation of Mare Reproductive Loss Syndrome, West Nile Virus monitoring and other disease control efforts, according to the KVMA.

The Office of the State Veterinarian enforces state and federal regulations on interstate livestock movement; maintains animal health records; and supervises and inspects livestock dealers and other animal assembly points. It administers programs to control and eradicate equine diseases, brucellosis, pseudorabies, Johne’s and other animal diseases. Kentucky is free of brucellosis in cattle and pseudorabies in swine. No thoroughbred stallion standing in Kentucky is known to have equine viral arteritis, and Kentucky recorded only one case of equine infectious anemia in 2003.

Kentucky Proud products on Derby week menu

Continued from Page 1 produces Creekstone Farms Premium Black Angus Beef, one of the few branded programs certified by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Marketing Service. Pork products from Happy Hollow Farms, a central Kentucky hog marketing cooperative headed by John Medley of Springfield, will be back for Derby week for the second consecutive year.

Other Kentucky Proud offerings include pork from Kentucky Heritage Meats of Springfield and Louisville, cheese from Kenny’s Country Cheese of Austin, ice cream from Valentine’s of Winchester and Graeter’s of Louisville, shiitake mushrooms from Mark Anderson of Bardstown, blackberry and strawberry jam from WindStone Farms of Paris, country ham from Finchville Farms, chocolates from Ruth Hunt Candies of Mt. Sterling, and bourbon from Woodford Reserve of Versailles.

The mint for the Kentucky Derby’s famous mint juleps is produced by Bill Dohn, a Jefferson County herb grower.

At press time, Chef Logan was looking for Kentucky Proud lamb, free-range chicken and other products for the spring meet, which includes the Kentucky Derby and Kentucky Oaks.

Chef Logan travels all over the Commonwealth in search of Kentucky Proud foods to prepare and serve at the world’s most historic racetrack. “I probably did 20 sites visits this summer (2004) alone,” he said. “I love it. It’s the best part of my job. There’s nothing better for inspiration for a chef.”

www.kyagr.com
Short Rows: A brief look at what’s new in Kentucky agriculture

KLI Winter Conference Jan. 13-14

The Kentucky Landscape Industries Winter Conference and Trade Show will be Jan. 13-14 at the Kentucky International Convention Center in Louisville.

The event will offer exhibits, educational seminars, networking opportunities, demonstrations, social events and association meetings. The show offers opportunities for participants to buy green industry products, improve productivity, increase profitability and improve employees’ product knowledge.

Show hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. EST.

For more information, contact Betsie A. Taylor by mail at 350 Village Drive, Frankfort 40601 or by phone at (502) 848-0055 or 1-800-735-9791, or go to the Kentucky Nursery and Landscape Association Web site at www.knla.org.

Water pollution grants offered

Special to KAN

Grants totaling $3.5 million are available for watershed restoration projects and for watershed implementation plan development as well as for other projects to help mitigate or prevent rainwater runoff pollution, the Kentucky Division of Water has announced.

The Kentucky Division of Water administers the grants provided through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). To find out how to apply for grant funds, visit the Division of Water Web site at http://www.water.ky.gov/. A link at the top of the Web page will take you to additional information and an initial interest Web form that potential applicants must fill out and submit. This new process will allow the Division of Water to better assist those wishing to apply for funds.

The Division of Water has also prepared Guidance Document and Application Instructions, which walks potential applicants through the entire process of applying for grant funds to help mitigate or prevent nonpoint source pollution. The document is available through a link from the Division of Water Web site.

Projects will compete for funding under the upcoming Section 319(h) Nonpoint Source Pollution Implementation Grant for 2006. These funds are provided to Kentucky by the EPA. They can be used to pay for up to 60 percent of the total cost for each project. A 40 percent nonfederal match is required.

Agri-tourism, farmers’ market grants available

Governor’s Office of Agricultural Policy

The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board is offering competitive awards programs in agri-tourism and farmers’ markets for 2005.

The 2005 Agri-tourism Competitive Awards Program provides a total of $1 million for agri-tourism businesses and regional agri-tourism marketing efforts. Applications for the competitive awards will be accepted in two rounds ending Feb. 1 and Aug. 1. Applications will be scored according to a pre-determined, specified criteria, of which highest points will be awarded to projects that show viability and have significant impact on multiple producers.

The 2005 Farmers’ Market Competitive Grants Program offers a total of $1.5 million for regional and community farmers’ markets across the state. Of the $1.5 million, $975,000 will be awarded for regional markets, $375,000 will go to community markets, and $150,000 will be earmarked for market feasibility studies. Requests for regional markets over $100,000 will be required to have a completed feasibility study. Applications for the competitive grants will be accepted in two rounds ending Jan. 1 and July 1.

For more information regarding model cost-share programs contact the Governor’s Office of Agricultural Policy at (502) 564-4627.

Survey: PACE keeps farms going

UK College of Agriculture

Ninety-three percent of Kentucky landowners enrolled in the Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easements (PACE) program say the program will help them keep their property in agriculture, according to a University of Kentucky survey.

Of the 82 respondents, 52 percent said they used PACE funds and benefits to pay down debt. Other frequent uses include purchasing farm equipment (42 percent), constructing or improving buildings on the farm (39 percent), retaining ownership of property for agriculture (39 percent), and implementing conservation practices (31 percent). Most of the landowners who responded indicated multiple uses of their funds.

The conservation easements ensure that land currently used for agricultural purposes will remain available for agriculture and will not be converted to other uses. Donors of conservation easements may receive federal and state income tax and estate tax benefits.

Since its inception in 1994, PACE has purchased agricultural conservation easements on 17,531 acres. Another 3,069 acres of easements have been donated to the PACE program.

The PACE program, which is administered by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, has 585 applications totaling more than 115,000 acres pending.

Kentucky farm receipts may set record

UK College of Agriculture

Kentucky’s cash farm receipts were expected to reach a record level of nearly $4 billion in 2004 thanks to strong grain and livestock markets, according to economists with the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service.

Cash receipts are expected to moderate somewhat but still remain strong in 2005, said Larry Jones, UK Extension agricultural economist.

Jones said livestock prices were strong throughout 2004 while weather conditions allowed for exceptional growing conditions for grain crops. As a result, cash receipts for crops increased by 14 percent and livestock receipts grew by 13 percent above 2003 levels.

The largest sectors of Kentucky’s farm receipts are equine, followed by poultry and then cattle, Jones said during the annual Kentucky Agricultural Economic Outlook conference held in conjunction with Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation’s annual convention.

Net farm income for 2004 could set an all-time record due to strong cash receipts, low interest rates and government payments.

In the year ahead, corn cash receipts are expected to go down due to more normal growing conditions and the livestock sector will remain strong but have somewhat lower prices, Jones said.

National Swine Registry internships available

Special to KAN

The National Swine Registry (NSR) in West Lafayette, Ind., is seeking full-time summer interns for the National Junior Swine Association (NJSA) and in the NSR’s communications office.

Applicants for the NJSA position should be sophomores, juniors or seniors in college, majoring in an agricultural-related field of study.

Parties interested in the NSR internship must submit a cover letter stating purpose for application, resume, three references and samples of work to Christy Couch Lee, Director of Communications, National Swine Registry.

The NSR internship will require some travel, including trips to the World Pork Expo, National Junior Summer Spectacular and possible feature-story assignments.

Applications for both internships are due by Feb. 1 and should be mailed to P.O. Box 2417, West Lafayette, IN 47996.

For more information on the NSRA internship, contact Jennifer Shike at (765) 463-3594 or jennifer@nationalswine.com. For more information on the NSR internship, contact Christy Couch Lee at 765-463-3594 or christy@nationalswine.com.
FOR SALE: Registered beagle pups from active gun dog stock. Shots and wormed. Phone (606) 7911511, 100$-$135.


FOR SALE: Purebred Charolais bulls. Hamilton Charolais, Pocomoke City, Ky. Call Jim Hamilton at (502) 5356203 or (502) 5356974 or e-mail hamil5356@bellsouth.net.

FOR SALE: Registered Angus bulls and heifers. Bulls eligible for 50% cost-share. Call nights (502) 8636342, days (859) 2219585.


FOR SALE: Registered English Shepherd pups. All-purpose dogs, farm-raised. Shots, wormed. Contact Janice Saller, (270) 4657848.

FOR SALE: South American llamas. Males and bred females. Registered; some microchipped. Assorted colors and wool types. Friendly, and in excellent health. Call (606) 3796040, or e-mail Dcwhistle@gmail.com.

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 and serve you after your purchase. Call (859) 3414188 or e-mail drycreekfuse.net.

FOR SALE: Purebred Angus bulls and reg. Angus heifers. Pottinger Angus Farm. Call Randy at (270) 3243062 or kerman at (270) 3243423 or e-mail pfungus@juno.com.


BRANCS/CATTLE FOR SALE: Registered, purebreds and commercial black Brangus bulls and heifers. EPDs available with several qualifying for grant monies. If you are interested in decreasing calving problems and pinkeye and increasing weaning weights then you would be interested in Brangus cattle. Circle C Brangus, Big Clifty, KY, (270) 2427006, usanucaggressiveonline.net.

FOR SALE/STUD SERVICE: Horses /ponies (all types), new /used trailers, metal roofing & siding, metal roofing & siding, metal roofing & siding.


PROPERTY FOR SALE

164 ACRE FARM IN LOGAN COUNTY: Fenced and creek for cattle, deer, turkey and small game for hunting. 20 minutes from Bowling Green, very private on Old Greenville Rd with county water available. Priced to sell at $179,000. Call (270) 5426844.

WANTED – FISHERMEN – Use Cumberland River Farm Campground as your fishing camp. Full hookups, hot showers. Boat dock approach, 1 mile. Shady beach area. Located on the Lower Cumberland River in Livingston County. Near LBL and Paducah. (270) 9282180 or e-mail hmaupin@smithland.net.

WANTED: Kentuck State Fair programs, ribbons, other items. Also, programs, books, etc. related to Saddle Horses and Hackneys. Send item, condition, price. E-mail kcscasol.com or write Box 389, Lexington, KY 40508.


FOR SALE: "22"x28" print of Lewisburg, Ky. – shows old Lewisburg High School, Lewisburg Methodist Church, Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, Lewisburg Bank, Gower drugstore, Old Ranger Cafe, Diamond Springs Hotel. 30. Contact Patricia Cauley Foster, 923 McPhersones, Madisonville, KY 42431, (270) 8210085.


BLUEBERRY PLANTS, Kentucky grown blueberry bushes. Kentucky Nursery License No. 85 A Member of the Blueberry Growers Association, Inc. Low-maintenance crop with income of $9,000 to $18,000 per acre average possible. Larry Martin & Jean Daniels, Bluegrass Blueberries, 8080 Subtle Road, Edmonton, Kentucky 42129, phone (270) 4325836, e-mail a61853@scrtc.com. Web page www.blueberries.biz.
Broad Run Vineyards is on the grow
Pioneer Kentucky winemaker builds new 4,000-square-foot winery

By TED SLOAN
Kentucky Agricultural News

Kentucky once was among the national leaders in wine production before Prohibition led many in the commonwealth to pull up their vines. Several new wineries have popped up in Kentucky over the last decade as entrepreneurs have sought to take advantage of the state’s soil and climate and cash in on the wine-drinking craze.

Broad Run Vineyards of Jefferson County was one of the pioneers of the latter-day wine movement in Kentucky. Today owners Jerry and Marilyn Kushner’s wines are available from several central Kentucky retailers.

The Kushners started making wine 20 years ago for their personal consumption. They soon decided that they wanted to grow their own grapes and planted 400 vines, mostly European varietals and French-American hybrids. Their pastime became “a social thing,” Marilyn said, as friends would visit the farm to help work the grapevines – and later would come back to help drink the wine.

“You don’t get customers in a vineyard. You get friends,” Jerry said.

An experienced and respected wine taster in Louisville suggested the Kushners start making wine to sell. They launched their commercial opera-

See BROAD RUN, page 8

Poster and essay contest explores farm preservation

KAN staff report
Kentucky schoolchildren can test their writing and artistic skills while learning about the importance of agriculture in the Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s 2005 Poster and Essay Contest.

This year’s theme is “Kentucky Farmland: Preserving Our Past and Protecting Our Future.” Children in grades 1-8 are asked to write essays and draw posters based on the theme. Students with the best essays and posters in each grade will receive $100 savings bonds and will be honored at the Kentucky Agriculture Day luncheon March 24 in Frankfort.

“As consumers become more removed from their farming roots, many do not realize the farmer’s critical contributions to our way of life,” Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer said. “The Poster and Essay Contest is a great way for children to learn how many ways agriculture touches our lives every day.”

Posters and essays must be completely student-created. Students may enter both contests. Posters should be in color and should be drawn on white paper, mounted and framed with poster board, heavy paper or mat board. Posters should be no more than 18 inches by 24 inches and will not be accepted if they are rolled up.

Essays must be no more than 150 words for students in grades 1-3 and no more than 250 words for students in grades 4-8.

Entries must be postmarked by Feb. 25. Winners will be notified by March 11.

Entries will become the property of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and will not be returned. Essays and posters may be used in various KDA publications and special events.

For more information, contact Rayetta Boone or Teresa Prather at the Kentucky Department of Agriculture by phone at (502) 564-4696 or by e-mail at rayetta.boone@ky.gov or teresa.prather@ky.gov.