



JACKSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU NEWS

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Edited by: Phyllis Purvis

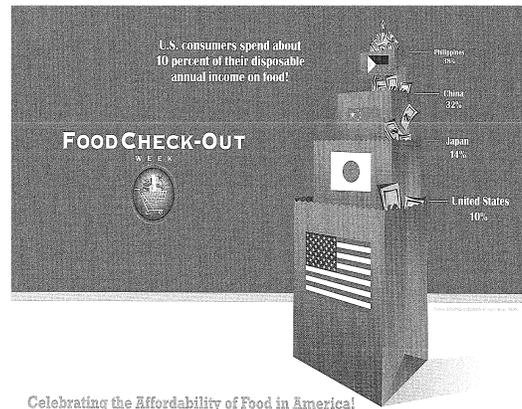
FOOD CHECK OUT DAY CELEBRATED MARCH 2, 2016

Food Check-Out week is celebrated annually by Kentucky Farm Bureau. This is the week each year that Americans have earned enough money to pay for their food for the entire year. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service, American consumers spend, on average, just over 10 percent of their disposable income for food. That means the average household will have earned enough disposable income—that portion of income available for spending or saving – to pay for its annual food supply in about seven weeks, said Kentucky Farm Bureau President Mark Haney. That is only about 49 days, however, Americans must work approximately 99 days to earn enough money to pay federal taxes according to the Tax Foundation.

“America’s food supply is the most affordable as well as the safest in the world,” Haney said. “Domestic foods that are produced by farmers in Kentucky and throughout the United States are responsible, in part, for our nation’s increased standard of living.”

In recognition of this, Jackson County Farm Bureau celebrated Food Check-Out Day by asking customers to come by the office to pick up more information on Food Check-Out and enter a drawing for a gift certificate to a local grocery store. The winner of the gift certificate was Debra Adkins from McKee.

Pictured below is Debra Adkins, winner of the \$25 gift certificate and Phyllis Purvis, Jackson County’s Women’s Chair.



Agricultural Facts

- The agriculture and food industries employ approximately 24 million people nationwide.
- U.S. agricultural exports generate more than \$100 billion in business activity annually.
- Almost 90 percent of U.S. farms are operated by families or individuals.
- Today's farmer - using less land, water and energy than previous generations - grows enough food and fiber to feed 154 people.
- When applied to calendar days, the average American earns enough income to pay for his entire year's supply of food in just seven weeks. By comparison, the same person must work until mid-April to pay for annual taxes. That's seven weeks for food and more than three months for taxes.
- According to Kentucky Farm Bureau's Marketbasket Survey data, the average retail food price of 40 basic grocery items in Kentucky has increased less than \$45 over the last 20 years.



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JACKSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

HARRY WILSON, PRESIDENT

WARREN LAKES, VICE PRES.

DOUG WILSON, YOUNG FARMER CHAIR

PHYLLIS PURVIS, WOMENS CHAIR

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WOODROW MASTERS
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GEORGE PURCELL
EMMITT TURNER
JOHNNY PURVIS

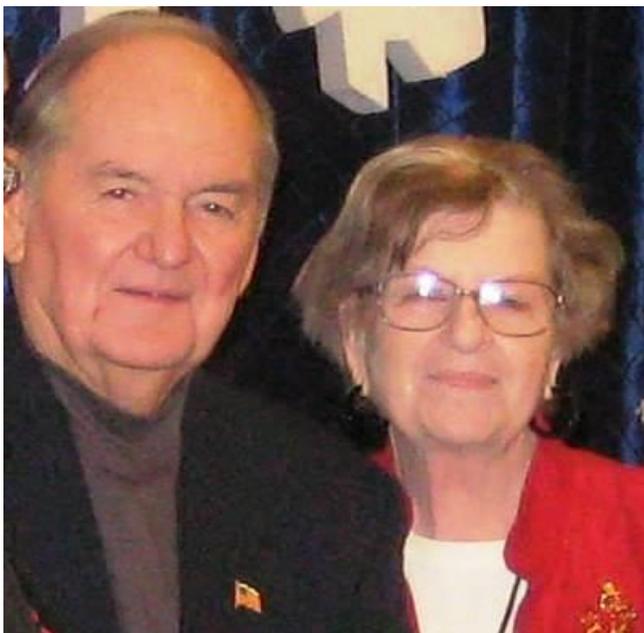
BRENDA AYERS, AGENCY MANAGER

2016 PRESIDENT’S AND VICE-PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE

Kentucky Farm Bureau held their annual President’s and Vice Presidents conference on February 9-10 at the Galt House in Louisville.

Jackson County was represented by President, Harry Wilson, his wife Judy. This year’s conference featured an update on member services, highlights of successful programs from County Farm Bureau leaders, focusing on county programs and activities.

Effective advocacy was the focus of multiple sessions. There was also a report by the Public Affairs staff on developments in the 2016 General Assembly.



Pictured: Jackson County Farm Bureau Board of Directors President, Harry Wilson and wife, Judith Wilson

2016 WOMEN’S CONFERENCE

Kentucky Farm Bureau held their annual Women’s Conference on March 4 & 5, 2016. This year the conference was held in Lexington with tours of several local farming operations.

The Women’s Conference hosts volunteer women from around the state who work to promote agriculture and to educate the public concerning agriculture. Jackson County was represented by Women’s Chair, Phyllis Purvis.

JACKSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU DONATES TO LOCAL FOOD BANK

The Jackson County Farm Bureau Board of Directors donated \$500 to the Jackson County Food Bank in McKee. The check was presented to Ms. Joyce Marks, Director of the food bank, by Brenda Ayers, Jackson Co Farm Bureau Agency Manager.



Pictured: Joyce Marks and Brenda Ayers

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MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Farm Bureau is a voluntary organization of farm families and their allies dedicated to serving as the voice of agriculture by identifying problems, developing solutions and taking actions which will improve net farm income, achieve better economic opportunities and enhance to quality of life for all.

Listed here are just some of the ways your membership money goes to work for you.

Ag in the Classroom reaches thousands of students each year through a variety of activities and instructional programs which highlight how Kentucky agriculture positively impacts their lives economically, environmentally and socially.

The Kentucky Young Farmer program focuses on providing leadership development opportunities for younger members of the organization and encourages its participants to be active member of their county Farm Bureau.

Kentucky Farm Bureau Education Foundation awards thousands of dollars in college scholarships each year to high school, college and non-traditional students with top-notch scholastic and leadership backgrounds.

Kentucky's top-rated lobbying team works on behalf of Farm Bureau members through each session of Kentucky's legislature and with interim committees that meet year-round.

A National Affairs staff works directly with Kentucky's congressional delegation and federal agencies on issues critical to the state's agricultural industry.

CHECK US OUT ON THE WEB!!

JUST GO TO WWW.KYFB.COM AND YOU CAN FIND INFORMATION ABOUT ANY OF OUR FARM BUREAU OFFICES AND WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR AREA.

National Agriculture Week

National Agriculture Week was the week of March 13-19, 2016. National Ag Week and Kentucky Ag Literacy Day is celebrated each year to help students understand that agriculture provides for our most basic needs and enriches our life economically, environmentally and socially. Farm Bureau volunteers are encouraged to visit elementary school classrooms across the state and read an ag-related book and talk to the students about the importance of agriculture.

This year Brenda Ayers and Phyllis Purvis visited Tyner Elementary school and read the ag-book, "First Peas to the Table," to a group of 4th grade students.



FARM SAFETY IN KENTUCKY

Recent statistics show that FARMING is one of the most dangerous occupations in the United States. Agriculture has the highest rate of occupational fatalities of any industry more than five times the annual rate for all other workers.

The death rate in Kentucky agriculture is two to three times higher than the national average, primarily because of our high number of tractors and tractor overturn deaths.

Listed below are some general safety guidelines which can help to reduce the risk of tractor accidents on your farm.

All new operators should receive instructions on safe operation of each tractor and be made aware of potentially hazardous situations.

New operators, especially youth, should be closely supervised until they have demonstrated their skill and knowledge of safe tractor operation.

- Before youth are allowed to operate a tractor, they should:
1. Be able to reach all controls comfortably from the operators seat.
 2. Have maturity and judgment to recognize and anticipate potential hazards.
 3. Have received instruction and training in operation and safety.

Read and follow the procedures outlined in the operator’s manual and only use the tractor for its intended use. Make a **NO RIDERS** policy on all tractors.

Never attempt to mount or dismount a moving tractor.

Keep others clear of the area during operation

Make sure that all PTO equipment is properly shielded.

By being aware and following a few safety rules we hope that your experience with your tractor will be a safe one.

KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU CONRESSIONAL TOUR

The 2016 Congressional Tour was February 20-24. This year’s tour was a big success with more than 250 KFB members from nearly 60 different counties sitting down with members of congress to discuss the 2016 national priority issues. Jackson County was represented by women’s committee members Malta Sue Madden and Brenda Ayers.

Joe Cain, KFB’s Commodity Division director, stated, “Our Congressional Tour not only provides KFB members with a deeper understanding of the inner workings of Washington, it also allows them to share their concerns about how the decisions and policies made in D.C. impact agriculture and rural life back home.”

Senators McConnell and Paul met with the group for a question and answer session and a lengthy discussion of their work and efforts in Washington.

Pictured below: Sue Madden, Women’s Committee member; U.S. Representative, Hal Rodgers, and Brenda Ayers, Jackson County Farm Bureau Agency Manager.



UPCOMING EVENTS

GOOD FRIDAY – OFFICE CLOSED.....MARCH 25, 2016

DEADLINE FOR JACKSON COUNTY SCHOLARSHIP.....MAY 1, 2016

MEMORIAL DAY – OFFICE CLOSED.....MAY 28 AND 30, 2016

STATE FFA CONVENTION.....JUNE 9-11, 2016

IFAL.....JUNE 12-16, 2016



JACKSON COUNTY OFFICE