

Kentucky

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KFB ADVISORY COMMITTEES: A GRASSROOTS TRADITION

USMCA: A POSITIVE TRADE
DEAL FOR KENTUCKY FARMERS

FARM TO CASTLE TABLE



NOVEMBER 2018



KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU NEWS
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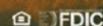
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Cover photo by Tim Thornberry
Spencer County farmland.

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President's COLUMN



The year was 1919 when an agricultural organization was born out of the need to be a voice for farm families throughout the Commonwealth. It was a time when the agriculture industry was being called upon to do more than ever before to feed our nation and a growing population around the world.

Since then, much has changed when it comes to how we farm, the way we communicate, and the number of people on this planet, who are in daily need of the food, fuel and fiber farming operations produce.

But one thing remains the same; Kentucky Farm Bureau is still the voice of agriculture in this state and the strongest of advocates for ag-related issues that affect our industry throughout this country.

As we prepare to gather for our Annual Meeting, we will begin a celebration of that 100th anniversary milestone, as we move through the coming Centennial Year.

Our Annual Meeting is a time to gather as an organization, not only to celebrate our accomplishments over the past 12 months, or to look forward to the next; but to learn from a variety of commodity experts and leaders, and to set priority issues for the coming year.

This process; this grassroots way of operation, has served us well over the past 100 years and I have been lucky enough to be a part of the Farm Bureau family for many of those years. During that period, we have seen the best of times on the farm, and we have weathered the toughest of times. But we have done it together, as a collective KFB family.

Working together will always move us forward faster and will make us stronger as an organization to fulfil the mission that began so long ago.

We have accomplished so much over the years for agriculture and the rural communities that serve as the backbone of our state's economy. We have also had the privilege of knowing and working with many wonderful leaders within the organization, as well as others in the industry and in government at all levels.

However, the one who is on my mind the most, at this time, is our Second Vice President Fritz Giesecke who will be retiring at the conclusion of this Annual Meeting. Fritz has been a long-time member of Farm Bureau and a valued friend and leader. As he prepares to step down in his current role, I just wanted to mention how much we have benefitted from his knowledge, his wisdom, and his commitment to this organization and the ag industry he loves so much.

While he is heading back to his farm, he will still be active in KFB and will remain our friend and colleague forever. Thank you Fritz.

I would also like to say thank you to all of our members, many of whom I will see at our meeting. I'm looking forward to setting out on this year of celebration, of continued advocacy, and getting to work on the next 100 years when, as farm families, we will be called upon to do more than ever before.

Mark Haney
President
Kentucky Farm Bureau

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KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU FEDERATION ANNUAL MEETING

November 28 - December 1, 2018
The Galt House Hotel & Suites | Louisville, Kentucky

KFB 100 YEARS
EST. 1919

CANDIDATES FOR KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU DISTRICT DIRECTORS

This candidates' list does not necessarily note all those individuals running for District Director but are those who asked to have their names placed in the KFB News

<p>DISTRICT 1 GLENN HOWELL 809 State Route 781 N, Fulton</p>	<p>DISTRICT 5 RANDY CHRISMAN 1168 Buckley Lane, Lawrenceburg</p>	<p>DISTRICT 8 DAVID CAMPBELL 2745 KY Highway 78, Stanford</p>
<p>DISTRICT 2 KELLY THURMAN 643 Barrett Hill Road, Livermore</p>	<p>DISTRICT 6 TERRY ROWLETT 8222 Carrollton Road, Campbellsburg</p>	<p>DISTRICT 10 CARROLL AMYX 1743 Sandfield Road, Campton</p>
<p>DISTRICT 3 PAT HENDERSON 2261 Hwy 2202, Irvington</p>	<p>DISTRICT 7 KIM MCCOY 161 Kim McCoy Road, Burkesville</p>	<p>DISTRICT 11 CLOYCE W. HINKLE P.O. Box 101, Artemus</p>
<p>RAY ALLAN MACKEY 3884 Roundtop Road, Elizabethtown</p>	<p>VICTOR REXROAT 821 Rexroat-Butcher Road, Russell Springs</p>	



Kentucky 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 the quality of life for all.

KFB OFFICERS

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Eddie Melton 1st Vice President
Fritz Giesecke 2nd Vice President
Drew Graham Executive Vice President

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Glenn HowellFulton
Kelly Thurman Livermore
Eddie Melton Sebree
Mary Kate Kordes Central City
Fritz GieseckeHorse Cave
Larry Thomas Elizabethtown
Pat Henderson Irvington
Jay Coleman Cave City
Larry Clark Greensburg
Scott Travis Cox's Creek
Randy Chrisman Lawrenceburg
Joe Paul Mattingly Raywick
David Chappell Owenton
Terry RowlettCampbellsburg
Mark Haney Nancy
Kim McCoyBurkesville
Victor Rexroat Russell Springs
David L. Campbell Stanford
Terry Lawson Mt. Vernon
Alex BarnettCynthiana
Shane WisemanWinchester
David McGlone Grayson
Carroll AmyxCampton
Don Miniard Bledsoe
Cloyce Hinkle Artemus
Marshall Coyle Owingsville
Vickie BryantTompkinsville
John Pedigo Fountain Run
Roger Fannin Harlan
Nancy Cox Lexington
Brandon Davis Frankfort
Greg Drake Bowling Green

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Comment

COLUMN



To say that agriculture has been a big part of my life, would be a huge understatement. And having spent most of my years on a farm taught me many lessons about work ethic and priorities. It gave me an appreciation of the land, our animals, the crops we grow, and an industry that is so important to our existence. It is my livelihood.

But more than anything, I've learned to appreciate my family more and the values we possess just because of our connection to the farm.

In much the same way, I discovered the value in our Farm Bureau family having been involved since 1977, first at the local level and for the last eight years as the KFB Second Vice President.

I have seen the solid efforts put forth by our members working together to make our industry stronger. I have experienced the common bond we have with our commodity groups and leaders. I have witnessed the respect Farm Bureau receives at all levels of government and in return, the respect our organization shows to local, state and national leaders.

Those relationships have proven to be invaluable in our mission of serving as the Voice of Kentucky Agriculture. I have learned, during my tenure on the executive committee, that you must have those good relationships in order to succeed and have that voice heard.

I take great pride in having been a farmer for so much of my life. It is a noble profession and one of the most important. I'm equally as proud of my role at Kentucky Farm Bureau. I can't tell you how grateful I am to be a part of such a wonderful organization.

But the time has come for me to step aside as Second Vice President and resume a stronger role at home, on the farm, and with my family. But, that doesn't mean I won't continue to be involved.

I will still be active locally. I will still be serving on the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board as the KFB representative. I'll still have a role in advocacy for the industry that I care so much for and one that has been so good to me.

I can't thank our members enough for the loyalty you have shown our organization and the kindness you have shown me over the years. I look forward to the life in front of me, to the opportunities that await me, and for the continued involvement in the greatest of professions.

But Hart County is calling me, and the time has come for me to answer that call. I hope to see you all in the future. I hope you know you can always contact me for whatever the reason; and I sincerely hope you know how much I value you, this family we call Kentucky Farm Bureau.

Fritz Giesecke
Second Vice President
Kentucky Farm Bureau



In keeping with its mission of being the Voice of Agriculture, Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) established a system of advisory committees interrelated to every ag commodity sector in the state, as well as other areas which affect members and their communities.

These committees have been a part of KFB for nearly as long as the organization has been around and play an integral role in bringing forth policy ideas from the local level to be considered for state and national policy implementation.

Policy recommendations can be made in a number of ways, in addition to coming from advisory committees. Some of those include suggestions from local Farm Bureau board meetings and their annual meetings; local committee meetings, and Young Farmer Committees, for example. In fact, all county Farm Bureaus make policy recommendations each year.

These recommendations are then presented to the KFB Resolutions Committee. This group is elected by their respective district caucuses every year at the KFB Annual Meeting and is the body that decides what recommendations will be sent to the voting delegates during the Annual Meeting.

Voting delegates are chosen based on local membership numbers by their county Farm Bureau boards. The policy recommendations voted on by those delegates are then sent to the KFB Board of Directors who make the

final decision on what becomes priority issues for the organization.

KFB First Vice President Eddie Melton serves as chair of the Resolutions Committee and said this process has worked well for nearly a century. He also said advisory committee members, who are appointed by the KFB President, are chosen from volunteer leaders throughout the state who have some affiliation or connection with the respective commodity or sector.

"We try to choose those members who are actually involved in whatever that particular committee represents," said Melton. *"Those individuals then come together every year to share their thoughts on policy ideas related to the sectors their committee represents."*

This process has proven to be an effective method of providing information regarding each advisory committee sector, to share ideas in each chosen field, and to make policy recommendations.

"Those who founded this organization nearly 100 years ago had the foresight to create a structure that would be sustainable for the long-term, and advisory committees remain a most valuable part of that structure today, just as they did in the very beginning," Melton said.

KFB President Mark Haney said because of the organization's grassroots way of operating, local members can be assured their suggestions will be heard.

"This grassroots process is at the heart of our existence as an organization and is one of the things that makes Farm Bureau so unique," he said. *"It is effective and gives our members a sense of ownership in KFB and a sense of pride in being strong agriculture advocates."*

Haney pointed out that on many occasions an idea that began at a local meeting and made its way through the process to become a priority issue, has been the foundation for a law or regulation to be adopted at the state or federal level.

"I have often seen a recommendation come from our local leaders, concerning an issue affecting them where they live and work, move through the process to eventually become a law," he said. *"Being strong vocal advocates helps to get our priority issues heard by state and federal officials and fortifies our efforts to be a voice for our farm families, our agriculture industry and our rural way of life. Our members are the best at being strong vocal advocates."*

This grassroots involvement is made stronger by the fact that all 120 Kentucky counties have a Farm Bureau presence.

Haney and Melton both emphasized that every member in every county has a voice in getting their recommendations heard, thus continuing the grassroots process that has served the organization and the agriculture industry so well for KFB's first century and will continue to do so in the future.

KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU FEDERATION 2018 STANDING COMMITTEES

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BEEF CATTLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE Fritz Giesecke, Chair Shane Wiseman, Vice Chair	FEED GRAINS & WHEAT ADVISORY COMMITTEE Sharon Furches, Chair Victor Rexroat, Vice Chair	POULTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE Jay Coleman, Chair Eddie Melton, Vice Chair
DAIRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE Terry Rowlett, Chair Joe Paul Mattingly, Vice Chair	FORAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE David McGlone, Chair Terry Lawson, Vice Chair	SHEEP & GOAT ADVISORY COMMITTEE Carroll Amyx, Chair Terry Rowlett, Vice Chair
DARK TOBACCO ADVISORY COMMITTEE Scott Travis, Chair Joe Dan Taylor, Vice Chair	FORESTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE Don Miniard, Chair Carroll Amyx, Vice Chair	SWINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE Larry Clark, Chair Ray Allan Mackey, Vice Chair
EQUINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE Alex Barnett, Chair Larry Thomas, Vice Chair	HORTICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE David Chappell, Chair Greg Drake, Vice Chair	TOBACCO ADVISORY COMMITTEE Scott Travis, Chair Shane Wiseman, Vice Chair
SOYBEAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE Kim McCoy, Chair Glenn Howell, Vice Chair		

OTHER COMMITTEES		
AUDIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE Cloyce Hinkle, Chair	ENERGY & TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE David Campbell, Chair David McGlone, Vice Chair	POLITICAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE Victor Rexroat, Chair Sharon Furches, Vice Chair
COMMUNICATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE Joe Paul Mattingly, Chair Brandon Davis, Vice Chair	FARM LABOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE Shane Wiseman, Chair Larry Clark, Vice Chair	ROADSIDE FARM MARKETS ADVISORY COMMITTEE David Chappell, Chair Mary Kate Kordes, Vice Chair
COUNTY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE Butler County Farm Bureau President Shane Wells, Co-Chair Mercer County Farm Bureau President, Cary King, Co-Chair	INSURANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE Kelly Thurman, Chair Roger Fannin, Vice Chair	SAFETY & RURAL HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE Randy Chrisman, Chair Don Miniard, Vice Chair
ECONOMIC & MARKET DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE Mary Kate Kordes, Chair Marshall Coyle, Vice Chair	INVESTMENT COMMITTEE Mark Haney, Chair	TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE Pat Henderson, Chair Randy Chrisman, Vice Chair
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2018 KFB GOLF CLASSIC

Soggy but successful event continues KFB's dedication to education

The continual rains experienced during this year's Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) Golf Classic did not stop the more than 120 golfing enthusiasts from taking to the links, nor did it dampen the mission of the annual event held to raise money for the KFB Educational Foundation.

Since the Foundation was established in 1953, over 1,800 scholarships worth nearly \$3 million has been raised thanks to the success of events such as the Golf Classic and the generosity of its many participants and sponsors who take part every year.

KFB President Mark Haney said the event, which is in its 23rd year, is indicative of the many efforts made by the organization and by county Farm Bureaus across the state that support education and the young people who ultimately benefit from those scholarships.

"Supporting education at all levels is one of the most important things we do at KFB," he said. "The annual Golf Classic is truly a wonderful event that has a serious mission in raising funds that will eventually help students achieve their educational goals and their occupational dreams."

Over \$25,000 was raised thanks to this year's Golf Classic. Haney expressed to the many participants his appreciation on behalf of the organization, for their support.

"I can't thank the golf teams and hole sponsors enough for their continued support and participation in our annual Golf Classic," he said. "A major component to the success of any project or program like this comes from building relationships with state and community partners. We are fortunate to have many new and long-time supporters of this



event who come together each year for a bit of fun, fellowship and great golf, all in the name of education."



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UNITED STATES, MEXICO AND CANADA GET NEW TRADE DEAL

Revised NAFTA is good news for farm families

With all the negative discussions that have centered around trade agreements and tariffs over the past several months, it was good to get some positive news of a revised trade agreement with Mexico and Canada.

The announcement of the United States, Mexico, Canada Agreement (USMCA) came October 1 after months of negotiations. The agreement would go into effect upon Congressional passage and a Presidential signature.

A joint statement issued on that date by U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland noted, "Today, Canada and the United States reached an agreement, alongside Mexico, on a new, modernized trade agreement for the 21st Century."

The statement also denoted, "USMCA will give our workers, farmers, ranchers and businesses a high-standard trade agreement that will result in freer markets, fairer trade and robust economic growth in our region.

It will strengthen the middle class, and create good, well-paying jobs and new opportunities for the nearly half billion people who call North America home. We look forward to further deepening our close economic ties when this new agreement enters into force."

Lighthizer and Freeland offered thanks to Economy Secretary Ildefonso Guajardo for his close collaboration over the past 13 months, as well.

One of the main sticking points during negotiations, as it relates to Canada, has been that country's Class 7 dairy pricing program that flooded the international market with subsidized Canadian skim milk powder, costing millions in damages to U.S. export markets.

Under the new agreement, Canada has agreed to do away with that program. U.S. officials are touting the agreement as good news for American dairy producers, and agriculture, as a whole.

Some key provisions of the agreement related to agriculture, included Canada providing new access for U.S. dairy products such as fluid

milk, cream, butter, skim milk powder, cheese, and other dairy goods; the elimination of its tariffs on whey and margarine; new access for U. S. chicken and eggs; and an increase to its access for turkey.

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall said the agreement represents a hard-fought win and he commended the administration for all the efforts to solidify the trading relationships we have with our North American neighbors.

"Farm Bureau will review the details of the new treaty as they become available, but the elimination of Canada's Class 7 dairy pricing program is a clear victory for our farmers. We also now have access to an additional 3.6 percent of Canada's dairy market, which is even better than what we would have achieved under TPP," he said. "Trade is critical to agriculture, especially trade with our two closest neighbors. The USMCA builds on the success our farmers and ranchers have seen from NAFTA."

In speaking about Mexico, Duvall said that country is still an \$18 billion market for U.S. ag products.

"The USMCA includes new provisions to provide science-based trading standards, timely review of products produced through biotechnology and gene editing and new provisions on geographic indications," he said. "We are grateful for the progress with Mexico and Canada, and we look forward to working with the Administration to strengthen new and existing opportunities for agricultural trade across the globe."

KFB'S ACTIVE ROLE

Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) President Mark Haney said the agreement provides guidance into the future regarding trade between the U.S. and its two largest trading partners.

"The USMCA is such a positive step in helping farm families continue to grow the food, fuel and fiber we need in this country and around the world," he said. "With this agreement, once it is approved by Congress, we can look forward to the opportunities it will create for our farming operations, the positive impact it will have on our agricultural economy, and the prospects it brings in discovering new trading partners in the future."

KFB has played an active role in bringing its message to Canadian leaders regarding ag-related trade. Earlier this year, First Vice President Eddie Melton was part of a group of Kentucky ag leaders who made the first ever trade mission trip to Canada, and in September KFB leaders met with Canadian Counsel General Douglas George in Louisville to discuss trade between the two countries.

"As an organization, we have been active throughout in voicing our opinion about the value new and existing trade agreements bring to our farm economy," said Haney. "With news of USMCA and the positive discussions taking place with other countries regarding ag-related trade, we should take pride in the efforts we have made in being good advocates, and we must continue to keep moving forward in our efforts to keep farm families on the farm with the help of international markets."



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Photo courtesy of the Kentucky Castle

FARM TO CASTLE TABLE

One of the state's most unique venues brings local food to its restaurant tables

VERSAILLES- It is truly an iconic place that has graced Woodford County for more than two generations, but the Kentucky Castle is much more than just a photo op along the busy Lexington Road corridor.

This unique structure, which was originally a private residence when construction began in 1969, is now a hotel, a restaurant, an event destination and one of the most popular wedding venues anywhere. Who wouldn't want to get married in a castle! But for its current owners, it is also the Castle Farm.

Dr. Matt Dawson, an emergency room physician at the University of Kentucky Chandler Medical Center, is part of a group of owners who have taken the farm-to-table idea to a whole new level.

"If you define me for what I do to pay the bills and save for my children's college, I am an ER doctor at UK, but if you asked me what I want to do when I grow up, I'd like to be a farmer," he said. "I could also be called an entrepreneur and businessman, but I do those things, so I can be a farmer."

Dawson explained that being in the castle business, especially when it comes to the restaurant, has enabled him to explore his farming dream more by growing some of the food that is served there on a daily basis.

In fact, most of the food served at the Castle Farm restaurant comes from local farms or the actual castle grounds, which includes 110 acres, several of which are dedicated to organic vegetables, a small flock of sheep used as natural weed controllers, several honeybee hives, chickens which provide some of the fresh eggs used in the restaurant, and a wooded area used to grow mushrooms.

"We want to turn this property into a real working farm, but also to use as a demonstration of real sustainability and techniques that can be used by other people, as well," said Dawson.

For those customers coming to tour, to eat or to stay, Dawson said showing them the farm and teaching them about the food that comes from there and surrounding area farms is part of the overall experience.

"I came to the conclusion, for a couple of reasons, that there was probably no better or more important profession than being a farmer," he said. "I realized that farming and growing things from the soil is inherently good for the soul and the person doing it. Another thing was, I found that it was probably a better way to contribute to the health of people, even more so than being a doctor."

Dawson grew up in Stanford, Kentucky around a farming region but never lived on a farm himself. But he got the idea after seeing so many patients who were sick because of their diets, noting that as many as nine out of 10 people he sees in the ER are there because of what they consume.

"They may call it by a disease or another name but often their condition is caused by what they eat," he said. "Once I realized that, I started focusing on growing food and farming for my family, then recognizing the fact that I could do this at the castle on a much larger scale."

Dawson, having grown up in the area and also having hosted a medical

conference at the castle for the last seven years, was very familiar with the site before becoming one of its proprietors. He said the small group of owners, all from Kentucky, want to turn the property into something the state can be proud of after purchasing it a little over a year ago.

"It's something that represents Kentucky and what we do, and a place to help show the state off to the rest of the world," he said.

And much of that showing off has an agricultural flavor to it. Often guest find themselves walking around the grounds seeing the farming side of the castle. But it is not just a learning experience for those visitors.

Students from the nearby Locust Trace Agri-Science Farm are using the Castle Farm as an outdoor lab; an extension of the school itself. Dawson said educating a younger generation is so important in continuing the process of providing good, healthy food and he thinks the best and brightest minds should be going into the agriculture field.

THE FARMER-CHEF IDEA

Dawson said the castle's executive chef, Jason Walls cooks delicious food, but also grows and produces it on his farm, something that is important in bringing fresh food to castle guests.

"The reason we brought Jason in is because he is a farmer first and he spends as much time growing food as cooking it. And I see the quickest way to connect people back to the land and to the soil is through their food," he said. "If you serve them a delicious meal and then let them see the farm coming in and going out, I think that can have a really powerful effect."

Having local connections to area farmers, Chef Walls is able to seek out these producers and bring their food to the restaurant. This process is so much a part of the castle dining experience, the names of the farms are printed on the menus next to the foods those operations have provided.

"Some chefs get a lot of credit these days with shows and things like that," said Dawson. "But I think we need to honor our farmers first."

Dawson said he has been somewhat surprised at the sheer number of great

farms and farmers who live in the region near the castle and how excited they are to talk about what they grow and how they do it.

"Seeing the passion and care these farmers take with their crops and animals, we think is really special," he said. "And our customers have received this local farm food atmosphere very well and hopefully they will become a little more mindful of where their food is coming from by coming here."

Dawson said in addition to educating customers about their food, he hopes to inspire other farmers along the way to show them that farming is indeed is of the most noble of professions.

In addition to serving as a hotel, restaurant, an event venue and of course, a farm, the Kentucky Castle offers tours to the public and is one of the locations for the Woodford County Farmers Market. For more information, visit their website at www.thekentuckycastle.com.



Top photo: Sheep graze near the castle walls. Bottom left: Bee hives provide local honey for the castle restaurant. Right: Much of the food served comes from local farms. Photo courtesy of the Kentucky Castle.

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Garry Allen Taylor is all smiles after winning Grand Champion Steer honors.

LIVESTOCK SHOWING IS A WAY OF LIFE FOR MANY EXHIBITORS

And Kentucky is proving to have some of the biggest and best show opportunities

Garry Allen Taylor is much like other young people in this state who grew up showing livestock; it has always been a big part of his life. In fact, there is hardly a time when he can't remember showing cattle in one way or another starting out in small shows and at numerous county fairs.

As he got older and more accomplished at the sport, he found himself heading to much larger livestock shows here at home and in other states; places like Des Moines and Denver; Ft. Worth and Wichita Falls. But perhaps his biggest and best accomplishment as an exhibitor came last August at the Kentucky State Fair in the first ever Champion Drive.

This unique show experience was born from the decades-old Sale of

Champions and made its debut this year, culminating another show season for its participants including Taylor who was showing for the last time as a junior exhibitor. The show featured more than 20 winners from the different show categories held at the fair, allowing more students to be involved than with the former format.

"Being involved in the very first Champion Drive was special, especially since it was my last year as a junior exhibitor," said Taylor.

In livestock showing, exhibitors may participate as juniors up to three years after graduating high school. Being his last year to do so, Taylor said the show season has been a little bittersweet even though he will continue showing in open classes after this year.

The only thing that could have made this first ever Champion Drive sweeter for him would be a win; and that's exactly what he did. Taylor walked away from his junior exhibitor career at the State Fair with Grand Champion Steer honors.

"I can't describe how exciting it was to walk into that arena with the big crowd and the bright lights and an atmosphere like I have never experienced before," said Taylor. "It was really a great event and I am honored to have been a part of the first one."

There were many people involved in helping to make the transition from the Sale of Champions to the Champion Drive a smooth one including Warren Beeler, executive director of the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy and one of the most

respected livestock judges in the country. He said the young people involved in this experience will never forget it.

"The Kentucky State Fair Champion Drive was a dream come true. The emotional rush the junior exhibitor receives when the spotlight hits them on the green shavings is a feeling they will remember forever," he said. "The Champion Drive shines the light on the part of the project that is most important, the exhibitor. And the lesson learned from this event is, do not let the animal get bigger than the kid in the project."

BUT IT'S A LOT OF WORK

While Taylor and the other champions who participated in the Champion Drive were walking on clouds that evening, a lot of hard work went into the season making it possible to get there.

Taylor said he spends much of his time in the barn at home working with his animals. In addition to his show animals, the family farm is home to a commercial cow-calf operation along with crops that include corn, soybeans and hay.

"While a lot of people I went to high school with were out doing other things, I was here on the farm. But I wouldn't trade any of that time spent here or showing livestock," he said. "I've met a lot of great people and made a lot of good friends in my years of showing cattle. And these relationships you create in the livestock industry are not only good friendships, but they can prove to be good business contacts in the future."

In talking to Taylor, one can see how focused he is when it comes to his agricultural endeavors. In addition to all the farming activities, he has become a licensed and talented auctioneer, adding to his already long resume of accomplishments. He attributes that motivation to growing up on the farm.

"Farming or any type of rural raising, to me, sets people in a class all their own. Not that there's anything wrong with growing up in a different way. There are great people in the world, everywhere, from all walks of life," he said. "But, it seems, for those growing up the way I did, you can put things in perspective sooner and it takes other people longer to figure things out."

AN ATTACHMENT TO THE ANIMALS

There is likely nothing in the world Taylor would trade for his farming way of life. His family, friends and the animals he cares so much for are all there. He has found true satisfaction in a vocation he has known all his life. But that doesn't mean there aren't some tough situations to get through.

Taylor has generally shown in breeder classes which meant he could take the show animal home after exhibiting it. But for the past two years, he has exhibited market animals meaning they would be sold at the conclusion of the season.

Taylor said in taking care of these animals, exhibitors including himself get

very attached to them. In the case of his champion steer, he said the same was true.

"I'd be lying if I said I didn't shed some tears in the days following the Champion Drive," he said. "You spend hours and hours a day with these animals and you do get attached to them; that's just part of it."

Taylor recalls the first show heifer he ever won a blue ribbon with at a county fair when he was six or seven years old. He said he kept the heifer until she was 14 or 15 years of age, long past the time of culling her. But it was the bond he formed with that animal, even at such a young age that made him want to keep her.

Champion Drive continued on page 23



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KFB MARKETBASKET SURVEY SHOWS SLIGHT DECREASE IN THIRD QUARTER FOOD PRICES

The most recent Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) Marketbasket Survey indicates a slight drop in prices for the first time this year after price increases were seen since the start of 2018.

The survey, taken four times each year, price-checks 40 basic food items in an effort to gauge current state food-price trends. Surveys conducted during the first two quarters of the year indicated increases of 1.35 percent and 2.19 percent respectively after a year of declines recorded throughout 2017.

The price drop equated to about \$0.96 or .83 percent over second quarter numbers with all 40 items totaling \$117.30.

From a national perspective, the latest Consumer Price Index report from September noted very little movement in most food categories since the first of the year. The food at home index increased 0.5 percent over the past nine months while the index for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs rose 1.1 percent. The index noted that the remaining major grocery store food group indexes posted smaller increases, except for the dairy index, which was unchanged over the last 12 months.

MARKETBASKET SURVEY SPECIFICS:

Numbers for third quarter prices were somewhat a mixed bag with several declines along with a few increases. Most notably was a decrease of 8.66 percent for surveyed poultry products including whole fryers, cut fryers, chicken breast, and large and extra-large eggs. All items in this category experienced price decreases during the quarter.

The next largest drop came by way of fruits and vegetables which declined by 2.88 percent followed by surveyed pork products which fell by nearly 1.85 percent.

Food price increases came in the dairy and beef categories with surveyed dairy products rising 2.53 percent with the beef increase being nearly stagnant at .43 percent.

Overall, food prices are seeing very little movement one way or the other during the year, in terms of dollars and cents. Price declines being seen now are following similar increases over the past year and the same is true in those product categories which saw increases in the third quarter.

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS IN FOOD PRICES:

Whether or not U.S. grocery prices fluctuate from one quarterly survey to the next, Kentuckians and all Americans continue to enjoy some of the lowest food prices in the world. Shoppers in the U.S. spend only about seven percent of their disposable income on food each year. Those costs remain far lower than any other country in the world thanks to many of the agricultural efficiencies utilized in America. Today the average

U.S. farmer produces enough food and fiber to provide for about 154 people – a significant jump from an average of 19 people per farmer back in 1940.

Yet while more food is now being produced on less land, the farmer's share of the retail food dollar in America is down. According to the USDA's Food Dollar Series, a farmer earns less than 15 cents per dollar spent on food, which is the lowest amount since the Food Dollar series began, and down significantly from the 31 cents earned in 1980.

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COUNTY CORNER

Snapshots of County Farm Bureau activities



ANDERSON COUNTY

Eric Phillips, right, was named Anderson County's Young Farmer of the Year during the county's annual meeting. Presenting the award to Phillips is outgoing county FB President Tim Dietrich



BOURBON COUNTY

The Bourbon County Farm Bureau's Farmer of the Year and Young Farmer of the Year were recognized during the organization's annual meeting. Pictured on left is Farmer of the Year Joe Fritsch with County President Savannah Robin and Past President Jeff carter. On right is Young Farmer of the Year Sam Clay with Robin and Logan Carter, District9 Young Farmer Chair. Savannah Robin is the County President. Jeff Carter is a board member and Past President.



BOYD COUNTY

During the Boyd County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting / Dinner held on October 8, County Board President Ray Sammons presented Lyndall Harned, Boyd County Extension Agent, with a certificate "Lead Where You Stand," a recognition for individuals who are leaders in the community.



GALLATIN COUNTY

Gallatin County Farm Bureau recognized their Young Farmer of the Year, Brad Noel during the county annual meeting. Pictured from left are: Mayme Walters; Brad Noel; Ben Parker; Dan Peterson, Agency Manager; Shelly More, CSR; and Taylor Jones, County President.



CLINTON COUNTY

On October 4, 2018 the Clinton County Farm Bureau held a Farm Safety Day Program for the 5th and 6th grades. Students learned safety information about animal handling, chainsaw, tractor rollover, grain rescue and ATV. Around 500 students and adults from around the community attended.



CUMBERLAND COUNTY

Pictured from left: Cumberland County Farm Bureau Agency Manager Todd Morgan; Kim McCoy, State Board of Directors; and Forrest Campbell County Staff, prepared a rendition of Freddy Farm Bureau in the Cumberland County Chamber of Commerce Autumn Fest Scarecrow Contest.



GARRARD COUNTY

Garrard County Farm Bureau had five contestants in the variety show contest on September 27. These young performers sang and danced to their favorite songs. Isabella Domidion (middle) won first place.



GRANT COUNTY

Grant County Annual Meeting feature plenty of good food and farm-related discussions from several local and state ag leaders.



GREEN COUNTY

Green County Farm Bureau held a Member Appreciation Day on September 26 at the County Office. In attendance was the KFB Executive Committee. Pictured from left to right are: Kevin Rigdon, Amy Curry, Larry Clark, Kristy Jewell, Mark Haney, Eddie Melton, Fritz Giesecke, Tia Whelan, Lynn Parsons, Mitchell Wright, Dwight Greenwell, Joe Rogan, and Mike Lee.



LYON COUNTY

Lyon County Farm Bureau members participated in the Lyon County Youth Ag Field Day on the Brian Dunning Farm. Sandra Rudolph, the current Women's Co Chair for Lyon County and retired Librarian from Lyon County Schools is delivering a lesson on Apples.



WOODFORD COUNTY

Woodford County Farm Bureau President Melissa Tomblin recognized Luke Mitchell as their Young Farmer of the Year during the county annual meeting.



OWEN COUNTY

Owen County Farm Bureau President David Chappell presenting Young Farmer award to Preston Forsee at the Owen County Annual meeting held October 12.



MADISON COUNTY

Madison County held their annual Don't Text and Drive event last month during a local football game.



MENIFEE COUNTY

Menifee County Farm Bureau board member Sam Hunt presents a check for \$1000 to Pam Branam, Assistant Director of the Menifee Adult Education Program to assist in their GED program.



LYON COUNTY

John Rudolph, center, outgoing president of Lyon County Farm Bureau, presents David S. Beck, left, a framed portrait of himself, after Beck was named the first inductee in the Lyon County Hall of Fame. Incoming President Glen Kinder looks on. Beck's portrait will hang in the Lyon County Farm Bureau office.



PENDLETON COUNTY

Grant and Felicia Caldwell, along with their sons Casten and Clark, were recognized as the Pendleton County Farm Bureau Young Farm Family during the county annual meeting. Pictured with the Caldwell family is Eli Mann, Young Farmer Chair.



TRIMBLE COUNTY

Each year, Trimble County Farm Bureau sponsors Trimble County Ag Day which includes a variety of fun, learning activities for local 4th grade students. The Trimble County FFA Chapter helps with the event which took place this year on September 21.



JEFFERSON COUNTY

Members of the Jefferson County Farm Bureau (JCJB) travelled to Moultrie Georgia to participate with the Kentucky team at the Sunbelt Ag Expo. Here members assist with a grain bin rescue demonstration. JCJB has been instrumental in bringing grain bin rescue training to the county and throughout the state. Pictured from left are JCJB Vice President Bob Williams, County President Calvin Shake and JCJB Executive Director Matt Michaud.



RUSSELL COUNTY

More than 200 students and adults attended the Russell County Progressive Farmer Safety Day. There were a total of nine stations ranging from fire safety, farm chemical safety, tractor safety and mower safety.



UNION COUNTY

Union County had their Outdoor Safety Day at the John Arnold Arena Oct. 4th.

MARKETS

WET WEATHER LOWERS BURLEY YIELD 15 PERCENT

Kentucky burley tobacco production is forecast by USDA-NASS at 90.1 million pounds, down 15 percent from the September forecast and down 30 percent from 2017. Yield is projected at 1,700 pounds per acre, down 300 pounds from the September estimate and down 350 pounds from the 2017 crop. Heavy rains in September caused the sharp drop in production. Harvested acreage is estimated at 53,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from last year's crop. For the burley producing states, production is forecast at 113 million pounds, down 30 percent from last year. Growers harvested 20 percent fewer acres and the average yield fell 12 percent to 1,743 pounds per acres. USDA didn't change its Kentucky production estimates from September for dark air-cured and dark fire-cured tobacco.

BIGGER HAY CROP IN 2018

In its October Crop Production report, USDA-NASS forecast all U.S. hay production in 2018 at 134.4 million tons, up two percent from 2017. With the average yield unchanged at 2.44 tons per acre, the production increase came from higher acreage. Production of alfalfa hay and mixtures is forecast at 59.5 million tons, up eight percent from last year. However, the average yield

was up only three percent to 3.43 tons per acre. By comparison, Kentucky's estimated alfalfa yield is 3.70 tons per acre, up six percent from 2017. The state's alfalfa acreage declined 10,000 acres to 140,000 acres. For all other hay in Kentucky, producers harvested 100,000 more acres and yields were four percent better at 2.50 tons per acre. This produced an estimated nine percent larger all other hay crop. Kentucky's share of the nation's all other hay crop is seven percent, but just under one percent for alfalfa hay.

KENTUCKY AG STATISTICS ANNUAL BULLETIN RELEASED

The Kentucky Agricultural Statistics 2018 Annual Bulletin is now available. This is the go-to source for information on Kentucky's 2017 crop and livestock production, farm numbers, cash receipts, cash rents and more – much of it detailed at the county level. The Annual Bulletin was compiled by the USDA-NASS Kentucky Field Office and can be downloaded at: www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Kentucky/

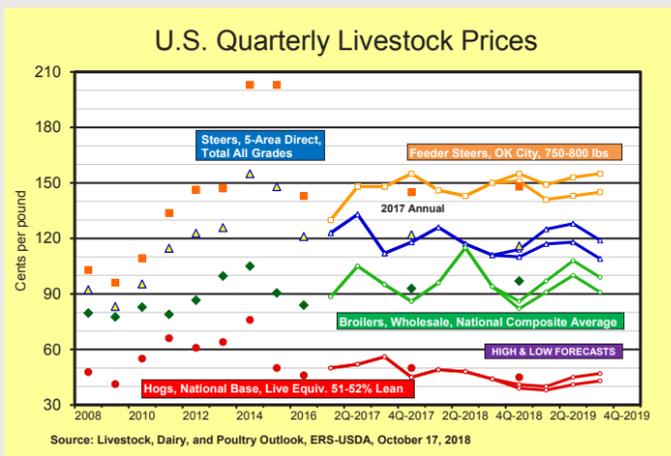
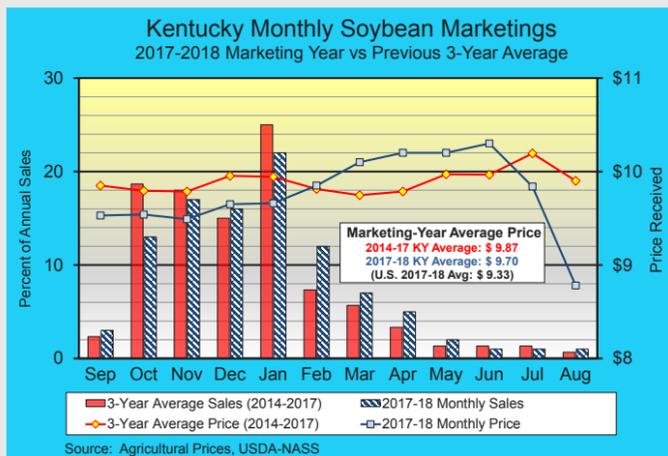
APPLE CROP UP SLIGHTLY

This year's USDA forecast for total U.S. apple production is 11.5 billion pounds, up less than one percent from last year's harvest. If realized, it would

be the second largest crop in the last ten years. USDA-ERS projects around 7.8 billion pounds will go towards fresh use in 2018/19, up one percent from a year earlier. This would be the second largest total after 2014/15's 7.9 billion pounds. Over 90 percent of domestic fresh apple consumption is supplied by U.S. producers. Nearly one-third of the fresh market crop is exported, with both export volume and value up over 10 percent in 2017/18 from 2016/17. While USDA does not publish a production estimate for Kentucky, we have many apple growers to provide you with locally-produced apples and products. Many of these orchards are members of the KFB Certified Roadside Farm Market Program; learn more at kyfb.com/roadside.

U.S. SOYBEAN MARKET SHARE DROPS IN CHINA

USDA estimates that 2017/18 U.S. soybean market share in China fell to 29 percent from 39 percent last year, while Brazil surged to 66 percent from 48 percent. According to U.S. Census Bureau data, U.S. soybean exports to China (September-August) were the lowest in volume since 2013/14 and the lowest in value since 2009/10. Given trade tensions, Chinese demand for U.S. soybeans is likely to remain limited.



2019 AFBF YOUNG FARMERS & RANCHERS

Competition Awards



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CANDID CONVERSATION

KFB Candid Conversation presents a discussion about the topical issues facing the agricultural industry and rural communities in a question and answer format. In this column, Darren Luttrell, 2018 Kentucky Farm Bureau Farmer of the Year, discusses that award, his participation in the Sunbelt Ag-Expo Farmer of the Year competition, and what it means to him to be a farmer.

Talk about your farming operation in Ohio County.

I'm a third-generation farmer and live in Dundee, Kentucky. Our farm consists of about 3,700 acres of row crop land where we grow corn and soybeans. We also own about 30 acres of timber and 60 acres of pasture, and we raise broiler chickens in eight poultry houses. In the late 60s and early 70s, my grandfather and father had the foresight to purchase good bottom ground in and around Dundee that was wooded and wet. They cleared it and tiled it and now it is extremely productive ground. Last year our yields were around 228.8 bushels for corn and 65.6 bushels for soybeans. We currently have about 350,000 bushels of grain storage capacity, which helps in getting better prices, and for the past 14 years, we have used a marketing consultant for advice on cash sales, hedging and basis contracts.

What has the last year been like since being named KFB Farmer of the Year?

It has been a great year in so many ways beginning last December when I was named Kentucky Farm Bureau Farmer of the Year. It has also been an awesome year, as far as crops go. Our corn and soybeans look to be the best we have ever had by several bushels an acre. We made national news bringing Santa Claus in on our combine during our annual Christmas Parade. And one of our proudest moments came hosting the 22nd year of Youth Ag Days where all fourth-grade students in



the county come to the farm. We also gained a new granddaughter, and of course it was great to come to the Sunbelt Ag Expo to participate in their Farmer of the Year competition.

Speaking of the Sunbelt Ag Expo, what was that experience like?

It was nothing like I've ever experienced. We were treated like royalty and I can't say enough good things about the people who put on the expo. The money Swisher Sweets puts into this as the main sponsor is great and we were honored to be among nine of the most awesome farm families that you could ever be around. I'm stunned and amazed to be in the same group. This competition is also a great spotlight for agriculture. This year, Zippy Duvall, President of American Farm Bureau, Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue, and even the Vice President, Mike Pence were all here to speak to the crowd. This was my first trip here and it was just truly, an amazing experience

In putting that spotlight on agriculture, how important is that to the industry?

As an advocate, I think about its importance during times like this, at the expo, but often in our day-to-day world, we are just trying to get through day-to-day. But, as farmers, we produce the

food, fiber and shelter needs of so many people here in this country and around the world. Being a part of that farming family, it is humbling to think about what we get to do every day on our farms and what a difference it makes in the lives of so many people. It's not a job but a way of life; a calling I wouldn't trade for anything and I'm so lucky to get to do this. I have gotten to work with my grandfather and father and I still work with my sons almost on a daily basis. How lucky can one guy get!

In having the youth of the county visit your farm and in working with your sons, how important is it to foster that next farming generation?

It is everything to us. From a family perspective, our youngest son is moving on to take over the farm operation from me at some point which puts our succession plan in place. He's already taking over a lot of the responsibility of the farm. And that's what I want because that's what my dad did with me. In bringing out those fourth-graders, last year we had teachers who had been here when they were fourth-graders who still remember the experience and have incorporated agriculture into their teaching. So that shows what an impression we can make on these youngsters. And as they grow into adults, they will know to ask a farmer when they have a question about agriculture. I try to be that person and it comes with some responsibility, but I take it seriously.

How important are those community partnerships when it comes to agriculture?

We are really lucky in Kentucky, in that we have farm groups and organizations that work well together, and we are all working together for the same purpose. That's something to be proud of because it doesn't happen like that everywhere. Everybody is on the same page here and I am happy to be just one page in that book of Kentucky agriculture.

Continued from page 15

Parting with an animal may be one of the first hard lessons young people learn on the farm. But they learn that it is part of the process; a part of animal agriculture, noted Taylor.

But the thrill they get from showing, win or lose never leaves them.

"It's a different feeling when you get older than when you win as a young child but the sense of satisfaction and pride never goes away," he said. "But I will say this, anyone who says they show livestock for the money isn't telling the truth. However, the money we have spent here in our show barn could not be spent anywhere else ten times over and create the bonds that have been created with me and my family, and really any family in the livestock business."

MOVING ON TO THE NEXT SHOW

While the Champion Drive is still fresh in the memory of Taylor and all those who participated, another show awaits many of them. The North American International Livestock Expo (NAILE) is taking place October 30-November 15 at the Kentucky Exposition Center. This world's largest of purebred livestock shows provides more opportunities for exhibitors here in Kentucky and for others throughout the country.

Taylor has shown there before and will be making a return trip. He said this show brings the best exhibitors from the U.S. and Canada to compete.

"There are usually several state fair winners and other previous champions from various shows from around the country at the NAILE, so the level of competition is raised a significant amount," he said. "It takes some high dollar cattle and a lot of effort to get them to the North American but there isn't another show like it. I've been to every big show in the country and this one, by far, is my favorite."

He said the NAILE is also a great place to market cattle with all the great sales that take place there.

"It gives us a network of buyers we might not otherwise have because they are all in one place at one time," he said. "It has a special meaning for a lot of people."

Champion Drive continued on page 24

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Continued from page 23

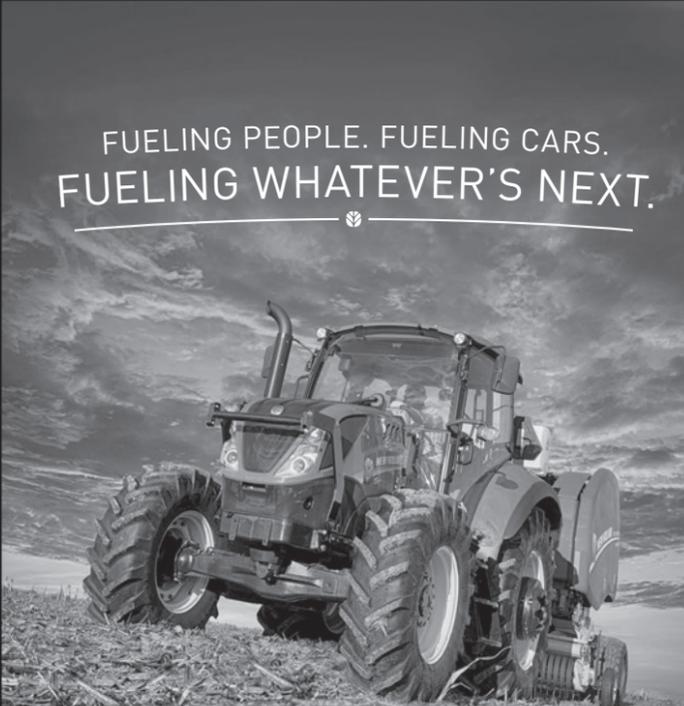
IT'S A TRADITION

At the end of the day, Taylor said you have to love showing these animals to put all the time and effort into it, and there is no other way to describe it other than to say you have to love it. He also said, for those would-be exhibitors who do not have the luxury of living on a farm, getting started won't be easy, but it can be done with the help of organizations like 4-H and FFA, and the desire to give it a try, stick with it, and find a passion for it.

"But for me it is as much about tradition as anything. It's in my blood and I would never want to trade it for anything in the world. It's about my dad taking me to that first show and getting me started. It's about getting that first blue ribbon. It's about that Champion Drive that will now become the tradition," he said.

Taylor has a philosophy that can be followed by everyone if they take the time to learn the agriculture way.

"If more people thought along the lines that a farmer has to, the world would probably be a better place," he said.



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Down the Backroads

By Tim Thornberry

For as long as I can remember, fall has been my favorite time of the year. And while I do love all four seasons, as well as the fact that I live in a place where they occur, I wouldn't mind if fall lasted a little bit longer.

I suppose there are several reasons for having chosen autumn as my favorite. As a high school student, I played on the football team and every fall brought football season. Hearing the roar of our hometown crowd, the marching band at halftime and having the honor of being a part of the team, it made for a special time in my life that I never forgot. Many a lesson have been

learned on the football field, and I carry those with me to this day.

The fall was also a time when my mother transitioned from her summertime meals of freshly picked produce to those warm, hearty dishes we all associate with this season. Foods like beef stew and vegetable soup were high on my list of her favorite fall meals. Mom's chili was excellent, as well. But it was a big ole bowl of chicken and dumplings that received my best reviews.

Being somewhat of the family food critic, I always had a comment to make when she cooked, and it was

usually, "More please!" I can still smell the smells that filled our old country kitchen on a crisp fall day. I miss her and her cooking skills, although my wife is just as superb as the head chef in our home. I just never mentioned that in front of my mother!

I remember well the many fall hunting trips I made with my father in the surrounding fields near our farmhouse. It didn't seem to matter if we had a successful hunt or not. For some reason my dad always seemed happy just because we were going. Remembering those times together still makes me happy, as I remember the smile on his face and his chuckle when I missed my target! "We'll try again," he would say.

Fall was also the time of year to watch the many farm families in our neck of the woods bring in their crops. You could literally see the sense of satisfaction on their faces during the harvest season, knowing their hard work had paid off.

It was like a Norman Rockwell painting coming to life before my very eyes. I still see those satisfying looks today from my farming neighbors, even at a time when the agriculture economy is hurting. I think a tough day on the farm is still better than an easy day without it.

Tradition has so much to do with what we do and who we are here, in rural America. For me, loving the fall season is a tradition. Just like the many hunting trips I made with my dad, and the delicious food my mom would cook, and the roar of the crowd on Friday nights.

Carrying those great memories created at this special time of year makes walking into the future a little easier for me, and hopefully, for all of us, as we head down the backroads.



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∴ The hills haven't
∴ changed much
∴ over the years.

∴ But my plans
∴ sure have.



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