

# Kentucky

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**KFB 100 YEARS**  
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# Blessings

FROM THE FARM



A 100TH ANNIVERSARY PUBLICATION OF THE KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU

**SPECIAL EDITION:  
KFB'S 100TH  
ANNUAL MEETING**

DECEMBER 2019 - JANUARY 2020



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KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU NEWS  
Volume 18 | No. 10  
December 2019 - January 2020

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Cover photo by Tim Thornberry  
KFB's 100 Year Anniversary book "Blessings from the Farm"

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# President's COLUMN



As we wrap up another year, I want to thank each and every one who made it to our annual meeting. It truly was a historic event with a record crowd.

It has been a special Centennial Year for all of us at Kentucky Farm Bureau. Not many organizations make it to the 100-year milestone, especially doing so in the same manner, and with the same convictions, we have observed since KFB began.

But the grassroots foundation that has been built over the years, is the reason we have been so successful, and I take great pride in that. But our success is not because of the work of a few; it's because of the efforts each member makes to help sustain this organization in a way that has lasted for the last century.

As we prepare for the decades ahead, our game plan has not changed when it comes to operating from the county level up. Make no mistake about that. The KFB leadership that you, the members, have put in place, understands that. And while there are decisions we must make on a day-to-day basis, we will never stray from the original intentions of our founders; to be a true grassroots organization.

As I stood before those attending this 100th annual meeting, I was humbled to think back on the many years I have been involved in Farm Bureau and I can't thank you enough for having the faith in me to serve as this organization's president.

In looking out over the crowds, I saw many familiar faces of countless dedicated members who have worked tirelessly to not only make KFB successful, but to make their individual communities better.

I saw many new faces of those who will lead this organization in the future. And while it was a time of celebration, I know there were concerns on the hearts of many of you. As farm families, we have faced challenging times over the last few years. From difficult weather conditions to volatile commodity markets to an uncertain labor force, we have had our share of hills to climb.

But we climb them together, as a collective family. That's what Farm Bureau is all about; always has been; always will be. By coming together, we are stronger. By relying on each other, we weather the storms and relish the successes as one organization; as one agricultural industry.

And while we recognize our past and all we have come through to get to this point in time, we must continually plan for the future. We must look down the road and navigate the changing ag environment in which we live. Those who came before us did an incredible job in building this organization and now it is up to us and those who will follow to continue that journey. This is our Farm Bureau.

As I looked upon those many faces, I also saw hope. Hope for today and hope for the future. And Farm Bureau is going to be here to offer the hope of a new century and the promise of the continued values we have learned growing up on the farm in our rural communities. Let's be bold and committed as we continue to be the Voice of Kentucky Agriculture.

**Mark Haney, President**  
Kentucky Farm Bureau

**NOTICE**  
**ANNUAL POLICYHOLDERS' MEETING OF**  
**KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY**

The annual meeting of the policyholders of Kentucky Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2020, 10:00 a.m. (Eastern), at the home office of the company, 9201 Bunsen Parkway, Louisville, Kentucky, for the purpose of (1) electing directors of the company, (2) to receive the annual report of its officers, and (3) to consider any other business that may come before said meeting.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

**NOTICE**  
**ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING OF**  
**THE FB INSURANCE COMPANY**

The annual meeting of the stockholders of The FB Insurance Company will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2020, 11:30 a.m. (Eastern), at the home office of the company, 9201 Bunsen Parkway, Louisville, Kentucky, for the purpose of electing directors of the company and to consider any other business that may come before said meeting.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary



## 2020 KENTUCKY PORK PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

**January 17-18, 2020**

Holiday Inn University Plaza and Sloan Convention Center • Bowling Green, KY.

This event provides an excellent opportunity to renew acquaintances with old friends, attend educational seminars, and stay abreast of the activities of the KY Pork Producers Association.

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*The Kentucky Pork Producers Association would like to thank the following sponsors of the Annual Meeting:*

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Kentucky Corn Promotion Board - Tyson Fresh Meats - Zoetis - Birchwood Genetics*

**FRIDAY (January 17, 2020) (All times central)**

6:30 p.m. — KPCW Banquet & Auction (Ballroom D)  
• David Beck, President and CEO of Kentucky Venues  
• Scholarship Auction, Auctioneer Scott VanSickle  
• Door Prizes - 6 - \$50

**SATURDAY (January 18, 2020)**

7 - 8:30 a.m. — BREAKFAST (Hartland Café)  
All meetings will be in Meeting Room 1 of the Sloan Convention Center  
8:30 - 9:30 a.m. — Interviews for 2021 KPPA Officers and 2021 National Delegates (Crosswinds Board Room)  
9 a.m. — Dr. Steve Higgins, University of Kentucky  
Director of Environmental Compliance for the Agricultural Experiment Station

9:30 a.m. — National Pork Producers Council - Cody McKinley, Director National and State Relations

10 a.m. - 12 p.m. — Show Pig Clinic and Pizza

10 a.m. — Bret D. Marsh, DVM  
- Indiana State Veterinarian

10 a.m. — Ladies Program  
- Rosie Cochran, Pharmacist

11 a.m. — National Pork Board  
- Stephen Herring

11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. — LUNCH (Hartland Café)

1 p.m. — Producer Spotlight  
- Murray State University

2 p.m. — Hog and Grain Markets  
- Dr. Steve Meyer, Economist  
Kerns and Associates

3 p.m. — 2020 KPPA Annual Meeting

- KPPA Financial Report  
- Election of 2021 KPPA Officer  
and National Delegates

5 p.m. — Kentucky Pork Producers Association Banquet (Ballroom D)

• Awards  
• Quilt Drawing

Please remember to bring items to include in the Scholarship Auction, as well as your checkbooks, so we can make this year's auction another success!

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Kentucky Farm Bureau is a grassroots organization dedicated to serving our membership family and their communities. As the Voice of Agriculture, we identify problems, develop solutions, promote economic success, and enhance the quality of life for all.

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## KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU NEWS

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As we come to the end of the year, there's a lot to be thankful for. This organization has celebrated its centennial throughout 2019 and we look forward to the opportunities a New Year and decade hold for us on the farm and in our rural communities.

While we faced challenges on the farm, we did see corn and soybean yields remain relatively strong, the 2019 winter wheat crop was up 27 percent from last year, and livestock production continued to be a very strong part of our ag economy.

We will likely maintain the \$5.9 billion level of farm cash receipts, and net farm income is expected to rise, nationally, by 10 percent in 2019, according to the USDA.

In recognizing the positive side of the passing year on the farm, it is often much easier to see problems rather than opportunities. But farm families have always been optimistic.

However, concerns still remain related to trade, lack of adequate broadband connectivity in many rural areas, ag labor reform, and the coming budget session of the General Assembly, to name a few.

But we will remain diligent in our efforts to advocate for farmers when it comes to these issues and anything related to the ag industry that better our way of life and ability to meet the food, fuel, and fiber needs of this state, and our nation.

It's important, as we look to the future, that we remember these three words; "Advocate, Educate, and Generate."

As Kentucky's largest ag organization, it's critical that we continue to be strong advocates for our industry in order to keep our farms sustainable for future generations. We must educate a growing number of people, who are far removed from the farm, and share with them the correct information about agricultural production and where their food comes from. And we must help to generate new opportunities to encourage farm families and a new generation to stay on the farm.

As the KFB Annual Meeting came to a close, our Board of Directors approved our priority issues for 2020.

We take these priorities very seriously as we meet with legislative leaders, at all levels, to let them know where our organization stands on these issues and all that is important to agriculture.

It's imperative that we get trade agreements passed and find new market opportunities to generate the revenue needed to keep the family farms across this state in business.

Equally as important is the need to have adequate broadband service reach all points throughout Kentucky, to shore up rural development efforts, and bring advanced technology to all citizens of the Commonwealth.

We must move forward with acceptable ag labor reform if we are expected to keep a valid workforce on the farm.

And we have to impress upon our legislators the importance of maintaining our agricultural tax exemptions and the importance of an adequately funded Department of Agriculture, as they move through the budget process in the coming session.

The coming year will no doubt bring its share of challenges, but if we work together, we can face these concerns with the kind of optimism inherent to farm families.

**Eddie Melton, First Vice President**

**Sharon Furches, Second Vice President**

Kentucky Farm Bureau

# KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU HEMP ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND VISION 100

## Committees set to help with new ideas coming to agriculture and Farm Bureau

Coach John Wooden once said, "If we fail to adapt, we fail to move forward." Those words have meaning that can be applied to most any industry or organization, and leadership at Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) are taking steps to move forward as a new century begins for the 100-year-old agriculture advocate.

KFB President Mark Haney said it's important to adapt to a changing ag environment as the organization looks to the coming decades.

“There is nothing like utilizing any tried-and-true methods of running the farm or this organization. However, as we face the future, we must acknowledge new opportunities for our farm families and new strategies for KFB as we move into the next decade and beyond.”

- Mark Haney

In keeping with those ideas, KFB initiated two new committees to help in those efforts; a hemp advisory committee and the Vision 100 committee.

## Hemp Advisory Committee holds its first meeting

Since the 2014 Farm Bill paved the way for hemp production on a research level in this country, Kentucky producers have led the way in research and production of this historic crop.

Now, after a full growing season legalized by last year's Farm Bill, growers are looking for guidance as they move forward.

KFB, in keeping with its long-standing tradition of working on behalf of all commodities produced in this state, has initiated a Hemp Advisory Committee that joins a long list of commodity advisory committees overseen by the organization. The committee is comprised primarily of producers who have been involved in hemp production since its onset.

KFB First Vice President Eddie Melton chairs this new committee and said it will help bring ideas to the table from producers who are seeing first-hand the potential and challenges of a new crop.

"As with any new venture, there are growing pains, and we have seen some of those associated with hemp production in this state. But, through the work of this advisory committee, we hope to find ways to alleviate some of that pain, as we continue to advance the hemp industry in Kentucky," he said.

Melton added it is through the advisory committees that many state resolutions are made.

"Over the years, many of the priority issues we have adopted as an organization have come because of the work of these advisory committees," he said. "And often those ideas turn into legislation at all levels. I expect this new group will be active in their efforts to bring forth policy suggestions that will move this industry forward in a very positive way."

Melton also noted the attention, especially from young farmers, that production hemp is bringing to the agricultural landscape in Kentucky.

"I think it's important to foster a new generation to keep the ag industry vibrant and sustainable, whether it is through hemp production or through other innovative ideas," he said. "And KFB intends to provide all the support and assistance we can to make that happen."

## Vision 100 Committee helping to set strategic goals for the future

In keeping with the idea of moving forward as an organization in a new era, KFB has established the Vision 100 Committee which will serve to provide strategic planning along the way.

*Continued on Page 27*



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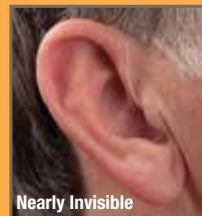
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# THE 2019 NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION

**Exhibitors from around the world make their way to Louisville for this annual event**

What has become known as the world's largest purebred livestock show, once again lived up to expectations. This year's North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) drew nearly 30,000 entries with competitors, exhibitors, and attendees from 48 states and seven foreign countries.

And while the 17-day event has proven itself as the premiere livestock show in the country, there are many other activities taking place throughout the run of the expo, including national collegiate and youth livestock judging contests, the North American Mule Show, the Quarter Horse Show, and the North American Championship rodeo.

## Farm-City Luncheon

The annual Farm-City Luncheon was also held as part of the many NAILE events and featured the presentation of the Agribusiness of the Year Award that honors a Louisville-area agribusiness which excels in financial growth and stability, employee relations, and contributions to the overall ag economy. The Harold Workman Leadership Award for distinguished service in the field of agriculture was also awarded during the luncheon.

Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) took home the Agribusiness of the Year honors. KFB President Mark Haney accepted the award on behalf of the organization.

"It's an honor to be named the 2019 Agribusiness of the Year Award winner. A special thanks goes out to our dedicated members across this state who work so tirelessly on behalf of this organization and our agricultural industry to make it a success," he said. "As we celebrate our Centennial, we take pride in our past accomplishments and look forward to beginning a new century for generations to come."

Dr. Newell Hicks received the Harold Workman Leadership Award posthumously. Accepting on his behalf were several members of his family.



*John Launius, Director of Regional Economic Development, Greater Louisville Inc., left, and Gary Huddleston, Chairman of the Agribusiness Industry Network, right, presented KFB President Mark Haney with this year's Agribusiness of the Year award during the annual Farm-City Luncheon held each year at the NAILE.*

## Wing Tip Rodeo

Every year, the Farm-City Luncheon is wrapped up with its very own Wing Tip Rodeo posting a five-person Farm Team against five members of the City Team to display their prowess when it comes to steer roping.

The light-hearted event has featured many well-known farm and city leaders throughout the years. This year, the Farm Team, which won the event was led by KFB Federation Executive Vice President Drew Graham and KFB Insurance Company Executive Vice President and CEO John Sparrow.



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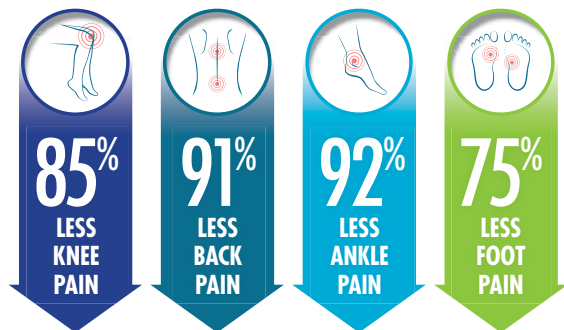


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*From left: Representative Richard Heath, Chair of the House Agriculture Committee, KFB Public Affairs Director Jeff Harper, and Senator Paul Hornback, Chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee, discussed issues with commodity leaders during the legislative preview meeting.*

## ANNUAL COMMODITY/ LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW MEETING

Kentucky commodity leaders gather to discuss issues and hear from top ag legislators

Each year, leaders of the state's commodity groups meet at the Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) state office to discuss issues related to their respective organizations and to hear from the state's House and Senate Agriculture Committee chairs.

KFB President Mark Haney said this gathering is as important now as it has ever been due to the continued difficult ag economy being experienced in Kentucky and across the country.

"This type of meeting couldn't be more critical than it is right now as we bring a collective group of commodity leaders in one place, at one time, to hear what their concerns are and discuss what we can do as an organization to help," he said. "As advocates, we can deliver a much more cohesive message to our government leaders when we work together. And Kentucky agriculture has a long history of doing just that."

In addition to the frank discussions held in relationship to each represented commodity organization, Senate Ag Committee Chair Paul Hornback and House Ag Committee Chair Richard Heath addressed the meeting discussing the upcoming General Assembly Session and what could be expected for the state's agriculture industry from a legislative perspective.

Hornback told the group that one of the top ag issues outside of the budget is going to be getting state hemp regulations to conform with the USDA guidelines.

"We have to do that for our growers in this state to move this industry forward," he said.

Hornback said he didn't feel as though there would be a lot of other legislation related to agriculture that would come up, but the budget is going to be the main issue.

"We have to make sure that agriculture is recognized as the major industry it is in this state, and that money goes to it," he said.

Heath said the diversity in Kentucky agriculture has helped the industry weather this current ag related economic storm better than other states, but there are some things that could happen to improve the situation.

"One of the things that could make the ag economy better is

getting past the trade war with China," he added. "We have seen some steps in the right direction so if we could keep going down that path, along with getting the USMCA agreement passed, those things would help our farm economy."

Both legislative leaders emphasized the importance of advocacy when it comes to getting agriculture's message out to the public.

"It makes a bigger difference for a legislator to hear from somebody in their district who is involved in that business and to tell them what their feelings are on different (pieces of) legislation being proposed," said Hornback. "I would tell those organizations to get your members involved. They have to do that because that's the way legislation gets passed because those elected officials listen to their constituents."

Heath said that while farmers are aware of the need to have adequate trade, having a strong voice is vital in getting those off the farm aware of how significant these trade deals are. He also said he thinks it's important for Farm Bureau and others in the ag industry to make people aware of how important it is to support U.S. farmers.

"If we don't give our farmers a fighting chance, it puts them at a disadvantage, globally," he said. "Educating a non-farm public is a monumental task. We, in agriculture, think that everyone else should know it because we repeat it so many times. But the general public doesn't know it, and we have to keep beating that drum and sounding that horn continually putting our message out there."

Hornback concluded by emphasizing how ag issues are non-partisan when it comes to the work being done by Kentucky legislators.

**“Agriculture has a good voice in the legislature, and we are very fortunate in this state because we work together. Agriculture issues are not political issues. When we are talking in our committee meetings, it's not about politics, it's about what's right.”**

**- Senator Paul Hornback**



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# KENTUCKY AGRICULTURAL RECEIPTS HOLD STEADY FOR THIRD YEAR, NET INCOME UP

By: Katie Pratt

**K**entucky agricultural receipts will likely hold steady for the third consecutive year despite trade concerns and relatively low commodity prices.

Agricultural economists from the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment are projecting 2019 farm cash receipts to be \$5.9 billion, equaling the past two years. Kentucky producers saw increases in equine, corn, wheat, dairy, and hemp receipts.

“While low commodity prices continued throughout 2019, sales were aided by better than expected grain yields in certain parts of the state”

- Will Snell

“We expect Kentucky agriculture cash receipts to slightly exceed \$6 billion in 2020 with poultry, cattle, and hogs rebounding from 2019 levels. Trade developments and weather will ultimately dictate the 2020 market.”

UK agricultural economists estimate Kentucky producers' net cash income will exceed \$1.8 billion, which is slightly up from 2018 and largely due to two rounds of direct government payments producers received as a result of the Market Facilitation Program. The program was created by the Trump administration to support farmers amidst the ongoing trade war. Accounting for this program and other federal farm programs, Kentucky farmers may receive more than \$300 million in direct government payments in 2019.

U.S. net farm income totaled \$92.5 billion, which is a 10 percent increase from 2018. Payments from the Market Facilitation Program and crop insurance indemnities accounted for nearly one-third of U.S. net farm income in 2019.

“Despite an expected increase in 2019 net farm income, the national and Kentucky farm economies remain very vulnerable, especially if either experience low crop yields, additional trade disruptions, the elimination or reduction of Market Facilitation Program payments, higher interest rates, and/or a decline in asset values materializes,” Snell said.

Despite a sales decline in 2019, poultry will remain Kentucky's top agricultural commodity, comprising 21 percent of all projected sales for the year. Equine, corn, soybeans, and cattle are expected to follow in that order.

The equine industry experienced its third year of gains with receipts continuing to surpass \$1 billion. UK agricultural economist Kenny Burdine expects the industry to continue to grow in 2020, provided the U.S. economy, as a whole, continues to be relatively strong.

In 2019, U.S. corn harvested acreage increased slightly, while soybean harvested acreage decreased by about 12 million acres, and wheat harvested acreage dropped by about 2.4 million acres. U.S. corn and soybean crops were smaller in 2019 compared to 2018, while higher yields made for a larger U.S. wheat crop. Despite

the larger wheat crop, a modest growth in demand continued to lower U.S. wheat inventories. National corn and soybean stocks dropped as well.

In Kentucky, corn receipts grew in 2019, resulting in corn becoming the state's third largest commodity, up from No. 5 in 2018. Producers harvested 220,000 more corn acres in 2019 compared to 2018, and average yields were up by two bushels per acre. Producers who had corn in storage were also able to capitalize on a spring market rally for the crop.

“Trade uncertainty will continue to impact grain crops, particularly soybeans, into 2020. Kentucky producers may find some opportunities to sell their stored grain to producers in areas of the Midwest devastated by flooding last spring, as they will need grain to feed their livestock,” said Todd Davis, UK agricultural economist. “Nationally, the USDA forecasts corn to increase by 4.6 million acres and soybeans to increase by 7.5 million acres in 2020. U.S. wheat acreage is expected to decrease by 2.6 million acres in 2020.”

Weather extremes adversely impacted Kentucky's cattle industry in 2019 with the year starting out extremely wet, but by fall, producers faced a drought. While prices for heavy feeder cattle were stable throughout the year, the calf market struggled. The fall calf market reached its lowest level since 2016.

“Many signs are pointing to a halt in herd expansion, which is exactly what the market needs. Also, I think there is potential for increased meat exports in 2020, which should support cattle prices,” Burdine said. “I expect considerably better prices for calves in spring 2020 and better prices in the fall than we saw this year.”

The state's tobacco industry continued to decline in 2019 with the value of production dropping below \$300 million, compared to averaging nearly \$350 million annually during the past five years. U.S. burley exports were down 30%, while imports were up by more than 40%, even in the midst of accelerating declines in cigarette sales. Declining smokeless tobacco sales adversely impacted the dark tobacco industry, which prior to 2018 had experienced more than 20 years of growth. Nationally, dark tobacco production was likely off by 10% to 15% in 2019, while burley production may be down more than 15% this year from 2018 levels. E-cigarettes and vaping products, which contain virtually no U.S. tobacco, continue to take market shares away from traditional tobacco products. UK agricultural economist Will Snell expects the market to move into a more balanced supply and demand situation for 2020, which may result in fairly stable individual contract volumes next year, especially accounting for exiting growers.

U.S. hemp acreage reportedly increased to more than 500,000 licensed acres and perhaps more than 250,000 planted acres in 2019, up from less than 100,000 acres in 2018. In Kentucky, producers planted around 26,000 acres of hemp this year, with 90% likely dedicated to production of cannabinoids.

*Continued on page 14*





Based on price and production estimates, Kentucky producers may receive between \$55 to \$65 million from hemp sales in 2019, which would comprise 1% of the state's total agricultural receipts. This is up from the \$17.75 million Kentucky growers made in 2018. In 2020, more states will start allowing producers to grow hemp, which could continue to put downward pressure on farm-level hemp prices, despite growing product sales.

"Moving forward, growers are advised to closely monitor and evaluate their own personal risk tolerance, contract terms, and business relations, as this industry matures amidst much regulatory and economic uncertainty," Snell said.

Specialty crop yields and markets remained strong despite a very dry mid-summer. Produce and nursery/greenhouse receipts are expected to increase by 2% each for 2019. Fruit and vegetable growers grossed around \$49 million in 2019, with farmers markets and other direct-to-consumer sales comprising between 40% to 50% of total receipts. The nursery/greenhouse industry benefited from a 12-year high in housing starts in 2019 with receipts estimated at \$102 million.

"Kentucky is a unique state for marketing specialty crops, in that we have a larger portion of total sales coming from direct-to-consumer purchases rather than from the wholesale markets like larger producing states," said Tim Woods, UK agricultural

economist. "So when the national economy is relatively strong and people have more disposable income and consumer spending is higher, direct-to-consumer markets, tend to do better."

As in 2018, the forestry industry contributed \$13.2 billion to Kentucky's economy in 2019, but there was considerable volatility. Prices for white oak stave logs, used to make barrels, were up and are projected to continue upward in 2020. Railroad ties remained stable from 2018 levels and are expected to be steady into 2020. Red oak prices were hit by a lower demand in Asia, which was exacerbated by tariffs and a soft U.S. market. With red oak comprising a significant portion of Kentucky forests, the lower prices caused some landowners not to sell their timber. This adversely affected the state's logging industry and primary wood manufacturers and is expected to continue to do so in 2020.

"With the exception of white oak and cross-tie markets, there is a significant amount of uncertainty across the industry and that will likely lead to lower stumpage prices in the near future," said Bobby Ammerman, UK extension associate of secondary wood industry.

For the entire outlook, visit the UK Department of Agricultural Economics website at [https://agecon.ca.uky.edu/sites/agecon.ca.uky.edu/files/2019-2020\\_ky\\_and\\_us\\_ag\\_outlook.pdf](https://agecon.ca.uky.edu/sites/agecon.ca.uky.edu/files/2019-2020_ky_and_us_ag_outlook.pdf).



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*Kentucky Farm Bureau Leadership, from left: President Mark Haney, First Vice President Eddie Melton, Second Vice President Sharon Furches, Federation Executive Vice President Drew Graham, and Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance Executive Vice President and CEO John Sparrow*

# STRONGER TOGETHER



KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU  
100<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

## PRESIDENT MARK HANEY TELLS MEMBERS, “THIS IS OUR FARM BUREAU”

A record crowd of more than 2,000 Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) members and guests made their way to Louisville's Galt House for the organization's 100th Annual Meeting. This year's event culminated a year of Centennial Celebrations that took place at various county Farm Bureaus throughout the state during 2019. The theme of this year's meeting was “Stronger Together.”

The event included several commodity sessions such as the very popular University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment's yearly ag outlook presentation. UK ag economists told attendees that farm cash receipts are expected to be \$5.9 billion and net farm income is expected to increase by 10 percent, nationally.

Several awards were also presented throughout the course of the meeting including KFB Farmer of the Year, Distinguished Service Awards, and the Outstanding Young Farm Family.

KFB President Mark Haney addressed the gathering, during his annual President's Address, and told members how important each of them is to the success of the organization in keeping with the theme.

“Kentucky Farm Bureau has been built on a grassroots foundation that has served to create the largest agriculture organization in this state and one of the largest in the country,” he said.

“Our ability to effectively advocate for our ag industry is based on the involvement we have at the local level and the efforts each of you make to improve life in your communities and across the Commonwealth.”

- Mark Haney

Haney discussed initiatives that are taking place within the organizations such as Bluegrass Senior Living, a series of personal care and secure memory care facilities planned in several locations across the state, with the first set to open in Somerset in early 2020; and the Vision 100 Committee, comprised of leaders from across the state, along with employees from the Federation and the insurance company. This committee will help in the efforts to look to the future defining the organization's strategy for the next century.

Haney also emphasized the importance of the Insurance Company to the overall success of KFB, and its agents



*President Mark Haney delivers his annual President's Address*

located in all 120 counties.

“The Insurance Company is the engine that drives this organization and serves as our most valuable member benefit,” he said. “We could not be successful in our advocacy efforts without the support of our agencies found in each county.

In speaking about issues affecting the farm, Haney spoke of several priorities that have been at the center of advocacy efforts throughout the past year including immigration and ag labor reform, continuing efforts to shore up infrastructure needs, the necessity of adequate rural broadband coverage, and how important the trade dollar is to farm families in this state and across the country. He specifically mentioned how important it is to get trade issues resolved including passage of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement.

In concluding, Haney told members to be bold and committed when it comes to the ag industry and the KFB organization.

“It was our grandparents and parents who worked so hard to move this organization forward and build the foundation on which KFB has been built,” he said. “But it's a new day and things are different now than they were for them. This is our Farm Bureau and together we can make such a difference in the lives of all Kentuckians. We truly are stronger together.”

## BOARD ELECTIONS

### Mark Haney Re-elected as KFB President

Pulaski County farmer Mark Haney was re-elected Kentucky Farm Bureau president on the concluding day of the organization's 100th annual meeting. Also re-elected were Webster County's Eddie Melton as First Vice-President and Sharon Furches of Calloway County as Second Vice-President.

Mr. Haney has served on the Kentucky Farm Bureau Executive Committee for over 20 years and has been a state director since 1993. For many years he chaired the State Resolutions Committee. He is a past president of the Kentucky Center for Agriculture & Rural Development, past president of the Kentucky Center for Cooperative Development, past chairman of the Kentucky Horticulture Council, and a current member of the Board of Directors for Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company.

Mr. Haney has also served as former president of the Pulaski County Farm Bureau and is a current member of the American Farm Bureau Federation's Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

He and his brother, Don, produce apples and peaches near Nancy, KY, where they also raise beef cattle. They sell fresh produce from their orchards – as well as cider, jellies, baked goods and other products – at a KFB Certified Farm Market located on the farm. He and his wife, Marlene, have two sons and a daughter.

Mr. Melton, a former president of Webster County Farm Bureau, is chairman of KFB's State Resolutions Committee and is president of the Board of Directors for the Kentucky Center for Agriculture & Rural Development. Mr. Melton additionally serves on the Board of Directors for Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company. He produces corn, soybeans, and beef cattle on his farming operation in Sebree, KY. He and his wife, Regina, have a daughter.

Ms. Furches has been a member of KFB's Board of

Directors since 2017. She serves on the Kentucky State Fair Board and is a past member of the State Board of Agriculture. She is also the Chair of KFB's Vision 100 Strategic Planning Committee. She and her husband, Tripp, reside in Murray, KY, where they farm 5,000 acres of corn, soybeans, wheat, and canola. They have a son and a daughter.

Four new members were elected to the KFB Board of Directors this year: Scott Davis of Monroe County will serve as a District 4 representative to the Board, Stewart Hughes of Scott County will serve as a District 6 representative to the Board, John Henning of Breckenridge County will serve on the Board as the Chair of the KFB State Young Farmer Advisory Committee, and Judy Hayden of McLean County will serve on the Board as Chair of the KFB State Women's Advisory Committee.

Returning Board Members are: Randy Chrisman of Anderson County; Brandon Davis of Anderson County; Marshall Coyle of Bath County; Patrick M. Henderson of Breckinridge County; Greg Drake of Butler County; David McGlone of Carter County; Shane Wiseman of Clark County; Kim McCoy of Cumberland County; Dr. Nancy Cox of Fayette County; Glenn Howell of Fulton County; Mark Kinsey of Grant County; Larry Clark of Green County; Ray Allan Mackey of Hardin County; Larry Thomas of Hardin County; Roger Fannin of Harlan County; Don Miniard of Harlan County; Alex Barnett of Harrison County; Cloyce Hinkle of Knox County; David L. Campbell of Lincoln County; Joe Paul Mattingly of Marion County; Kelly Thurman of McLean County; Mary Kate Kordes of Muhlenberg County; Scott Travis of Spencer County; Terry Lawson of Rockcastle County; Victor Rexroat of Russell County; and Carroll Amyx of Wolfe County.



*A capacity crowd was on hand at this year's KFB Annual Meeting.*



## PRIORITIES SET FOR 2020

Kentucky Farm Bureau's (KFB) 100th Annual Meeting came to a close with its Board of Directors approving state and national priorities for 2020.

KFB President Mark Haney emphasized how vital these priority issues are to the advocacy efforts of the organization as it continues to be the Voice of Kentucky Agriculture.

"One of the most important things we do during each annual meeting is to bring forth priorities for the coming year that serve as an advocacy road map," he said.

“We take this responsibility seriously and will do all we can to make sure the concerns of our farm families are heard at all levels of government and throughout our ag community.”

- Mark Haney

Some of the top state and national priority issues for 2020 are related to taxation, rural development/broadband, trade, immigration, and the upcoming budget session of the General Assembly.

### Taxation

Priorities relating to taxes included maintaining Kentucky's sales tax exemptions for production agriculture; supporting the provisions of House Bill 44 (KRS 132.010), which limits property taxes to four percent, plus new growth and proposals to exceed that four percent should automatically go to the voters; and strongly opposing freezing the state real property tax rate.

### Rural Development/Broadband

Supporting broadband and high-speed internet service being available for the benefit of all Kentuckians is again a top priority for KFB, as well as supporting efforts and incentives to improve and provide all telecommunications in rural Kentucky, and the support of efforts that will retain and attract new business and industry to rural areas of Kentucky.

### Trade

Trade continues to be a priority including the support of fair and open multilateral trade agreements that will open new markets and expand existing markets for U.S. agricultural products.

### Immigration and Farm Labor Reform

The support of immigration reform that restructures the H-2A program to make it more streamlined, reliable, and economical, in addition to limiting legal liability for farmers remains on the priority issues list.



*Supporting broadband and high-speed internet service being available for the benefit of all Kentuckians is again a top priority for KFB.*

### Budget

With the upcoming budget session, maintaining the 50 percent allocation of the Master Settlement Agreement funds to the Agricultural Development Board, and funds be spent for the purpose of improving the net farm income of individual farmers in production agriculture, remains a priority.

Also, supporting continued funding of the Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost-Share Program and the support of an efficient, well-administered and adequately financed Kentucky Department of Agriculture are budget priorities.



*Butler County Farm Bureau accepts the Top County award.*

## BUTLER COUNTY NAMED AS KFB'S "TOP COUNTY" IN 2019

Recognized for outstanding programming and for having a positive impact on both the community and its membership, Butler County Farm Bureau was honored as Kentucky Farm Bureau's (KFB) "Top County" in 2019. This marked the third straight year Butler County has received the honor.

Volunteer leaders from the county received the award at a recognition breakfast held during the 100th KFB annual meeting at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville.

The "Top County" announcement headlined more than 90 membership program and insurance honors presented during the same awards breakfast. Butler County, which has 2,095 members and a variety of successful service programs, was also honored as the most outstanding in the membership category for counties with 2,600 or fewer members. Breckinridge County (2,969 members) received recognition among the counties with 2,601 to 4,200 members, and Madison County (7,555 members) won top honors among counties with more than 4,200 members.

### **Other award presentations:**

Top County Farm Bureaus were designated in all eleven of Kentucky Farm Bureau districts. The recipients were: Allen, Bath, Bullitt, Butler, Campbell, Casey, Christian, Clark, Letcher, Madison, and Trigg.

Gallatin, Bath, and Boone Counties received Top Growth Awards for having the largest percentage of membership gain from 2019.

Pacesetter Awards were given to counties in the three membership size classifications that were the first

to achieve a membership gain during the year. The large county award went to Floyd County, followed in size by Bath and Gallatin Counties.

Eleven counties won honors for having the highest member retention totals in their districts. Those winners were: Adair, Butler, Campbell, Floyd, Green, Knott, Lewis, Madison, McLean, Shelby, and Trigg Counties.

Wayne County was honored for having 56 consecutive years of membership growth.

Hickman County was recognized as the Most Improved County Farm Bureau.

Three awards were given for most effective county Farm Bureau information programs. Logan County won first place, Daviess County was second, and Mercer County was third.

Ninety-one counties won the awards for policy growth and profitability produced by their local Farm Bureau agencies. Hopkins, Metcalfe, Shelby, Rockcastle, Floyd, and Jefferson counties came closest to the growth goal set for that county.

**Butler County Farm Bureau was honored as Kentucky Farm Bureau's "Top County" in 2019. This marked the third straight year Butler County has received the honor.**



*Wesley and Alicia Logsdon accepted the OYFF Award from KFB leadership and program sponsors.*

## 2019 KFB OUTSTANDING YOUNG FARM FAMILY

**W**esley and Alicia Logsdon of Nancy, Kentucky were honored as Kentucky Farm Bureau's (KFB) "2019 Outstanding Young Farm Family" (OYFF) at the 100th Annual Meeting at the Galt House in Louisville. This annual award recognizes a couple or individual under the age of 35 that demonstrates the strongest farm management skills, community and KFB involvement, and consistent financial growth through their farm.

The Logsdons are a first-generation farm family that worked extremely hard to get where they are today. Wesley's love for farming started at an early age when he began showing cattle. In 8th grade he was given an opportunity to take care of his neighbor's cattle for 50 percent of the calf crop. In 2006, when Wesley graduated high school, he used the money he made from the calf crop to purchase his first tractor and equipment to grow his own hay and first crop of tobacco. This was only the beginning for Wesley's farming career.

Wesley and Alicia believe diversity on their farm has kept them afloat in the recent years. On top of their conventional farm operation, in 2017, they started their own agri-tourism operation. The Logsdons have a whole list of activities that include: hayrides to u-pick pumpkin patch, corn maze, pumpkin gun, a slide, tire swing, pig races, and more.

They also do school field trips throughout the week during the season, where they educate children about farm life and agriculture. On top of this, the Logsdons do a good amount of custom hire work. They have rolled nearly 1,500 rolls of custom hay, fenced approximately 30,000 feet of fence, custom sprayed around 1,000 acres, and custom harvested 400 acres this past year.

Wesley and Alicia plan to continue growing their operation and hope to eventually acquire more land,

if the opportunity arises. The two are currently looking to find a new avenue to take the place of their current tobacco enterprise.

Upon winning the award, Wesley said it was an honor to be named as this year's OYFF winner.

"We've worked so hard to grow our operation, and are so passionate about what we do, and being a part of Farm Bureau," he said. "But there are so many farm families that deserve this as much so, it's a pretty humbling experience."

Alicia said in being first generation farmers, the honor is especially gratifying.

"It is a different scenario when you are a first generation in getting equipment and acquiring land and just facing the struggles all young farm families face. However, I look forward to, maybe one day, our farm being multi-generational," she said. "If farming is something our children want to do then we will be behind them 100 percent."

Runners-up in this year's competition were Caleb and Leanne Ragland from Larue County, and Nathan and Chelsea Wilson, of Fulton County, who finished in third place.

For their first-place finish, the Logsdons will receive a variety of prizes courtesy of Kentucky Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company, Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation, Case IH, Nutrien Ag, Premier Crop Insurance, Southern States, Pioneer, and Community Trust Bank.

The Raglands will receive a variety of prizes courtesy of Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation, Kubota, Community Trust Bank, Nutrien Ag, Premier Crop Insurance, Southern States, and Pioneer.

The Wilsons will receive a variety of prizes courtesy of Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation, New Holland, Community Trust Bank, Nutrien Ag, Premier Crop Insurance, Southern States, and Pioneer.



## STEVE KELLEY HONORED AS THE 2019 KFB FARMER OF THE YEAR

Steve Kelley of Carlisle County was honored at the Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) Annual Meeting for being named the 2019 KFB Farmer of the Year (FOY).

This yearly award is given in recognition of an individual whose efforts have strengthened the state's agriculture industry, as well as one who demonstrates service and leadership both on and off the farm.

Kelley joins an elite group of previous FOY winners and will represent Kentucky in the Swisher Sweets/Sunbelt Ag Expo Southeastern Farmer of the Year contest, held in Moultrie, Georgia, in October of 2020.

“This award means so much to me and I'm so grateful to receive this honor,” he said. “I know many of the other farmers who have received this award, and to be counted among that group is humbling.”

- Steve Kelley

Kelley and his wife Melanie live on their farm near Bardwell where they raise corn, wheat, and soybeans on approximately 2,500 acres. Additionally, Kelley raises cattle, has a solar farm, and timber land to produce saw logs. He also leases land for duck, deer, and turkey hunting.

“One thing I enjoy about being a farmer, is seeing that seed grow every time I plant it,” he said. “It's just amazing to see what I plant turn into a mature crop.”

After receiving his bachelor and master's degrees in agriculture from Murray State University in 1973, the Kelleys purchased their first farm of 600 acres and have added to that over the years learning the value of diversification, new technology, and on-farm storage, as well as good stewardship and solid farm management.

“We have gained a better understanding of local and global grain markets through marketing commentaries, other farm publications, and by talking to grain merchants,” he said. “And, in having a nearby ethanol plant, two chicken feed facilities, a soybean processor, and two nearby river ports, these all present increased opportunities to maximize our grain prices. When we lock in an acceptable profit, we forward-price some of our grain crops, and having sufficient storage for all of our grain production, it allows us to sell our remaining grain on rallies in the market.”



*Steve and Melanie Kelley on their farm in Carlisle County.*

Kelley also takes advantage of GPS technology to apply fertilizer, plant, harvest, and spray crops keeping overlap to a minimum, conserving inputs and energy, as well as various conservation measures to assure good environmental practices.

“To conserve soil, water, and nutrients, we installed waterways and dry ponds that hold and slowly release water while our no-till planting methods save and protect the soil, water, and energy,” he said. “My purpose is to leave my farmland in better condition than when we received it and this isn't only my duty as a farmer, but my joy. We must be deliberate in our farming methods to reach that result.”

Kelley added that his devotion to the land is not only so his children and grandchildren can benefit from it but for the environment and for all future generations to come.

“To that end, we plan to increase our use of cover crops to conserve soil, water, and nutrients more extensively,” he said.

In addition to farming, Kelley has served as a member of the Carlisle County Farm Bureau board of directors, including several terms as county president. He has also served on Kentucky Farm Bureau advisory committees and participated in the KFB Young Farmer program early in his career.

Kelley is a Carlisle County 4-H Council board member and volunteer. He has served as president of the Carlisle County Extension Council. Kelley is also a member of the Kentucky Corn Growers Association Board of Directors, including service as a past vice president. He was also Carlisle County FFA Chapter president while in high school.

Kelley is a member of the Morris Valley Christian Church. He and his wife, Melanie, have two children, Kristopher and Katie, and two grandchildren.



*Dylan Driskell*



*Madison Goodlett*

## OUTSTANDING FARM BUREAU YOUTH CONTEST WINNERS

**M**adison Goodlett of Spencer County and Dylan Driskell of Garrard County were awarded top honors in the 2019 Outstanding Farm Bureau Youth contest, during Kentucky Farm Bureau's (KFB) Annual Meeting.

Goodlett and Driskell were selected from 22 district finalists out of more than 300 youth who competed in county and district contests over the past year. A personal interview and a two-minute prepared speech related to agriculture or Farm Bureau were required for each person.

Judges heard speeches and met with finalists for personal interviews as part of the competition. Points were awarded for each contestant's leadership record, conversational ability, and scholastic achievement. Both winners were given multiple prizes, including a \$2,000 college scholarship and an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. for the KFB Congressional Tour in 2020.

Runners-up in the contest were Brady Lawson of Morgan County and Elizabeth Jones of Russell County. They each received a \$200 cash award.

Congeniality awards, which were voted on by their fellow contestants, were won by Mallory White of Union County and Dylan Driskell of Garrard County. KFB awarded them with \$100 cash prizes for the honor.

The 22 district finalists who competed at KFB's annual meeting included:

Arielle Evans (Trigg County), Logan Mattingly (Calloway County), Mallory White (Union County), Maxwell Bauserman (Christian County), Celia Johnston (Grayson County), Luke Jacobs (Butler County), Bethany Schalk (Barren County),

Ryan Brown (Warren County), Madison Goodlett (Spencer County), Jonathan Pinkston (Mercer County), Alexis Stephenson (Carroll County), Nick Hockensmith (Franklin County), Elizabeth Jones (Russell County), Hunter Miller (Taylor County), Ansley Cornelius (Madison County), Dylan Driskell (Garrard County), Madison Williams (Clark County), Dustin Liver (Nicholas County), Riley Warner (Bath County), Brady Lawson (Morgan County), Anna McWhorter (Laurel County) and Caleb Ashley (Harlan County).

All contestants received luggage and \$100 for winning district competitions.



*The 2018 OFBY winners, Lauren Rowlette of Madison County and Marcus Wiseman of Clark County, spoke to the crowd before this year's competition began.*



James Stuecker



Sam Moore

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD WINNERS

Two of the most prestigious awards given each year during the Kentucky Farm Bureau Annual Meeting are the Distinguished Service to Agriculture and Distinguished Service to Farm Bureau awards.

This year, former KFB President Sam Moore and long-time Hardin County Farm Bureau member James Stuecker were awarded those honors; Moore for his lifetime service to agriculture, and Stuecker for the many years of service to his local organization.

Moore, who served as president of KFB from 1998 to 2005, said he is very honored to receive this recognition.

"When I look at some of the people who have won this award, I feel like I'm in some elite company, and I think about all the people who have helped me along the way," he said.

Moore has been involved in agriculture for the past six decades and bought his first farm at the age of 18. That 120 acres is now more than 4,000 on his Butler County farm where he raises cattle and grain.

In addition to his service to Farm Bureau, Moore has served in many other ag leadership roles throughout the years including as a member of the American Farm Bureau Board, the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board, the Kentucky Beef Cattle Association, and the Kentucky Corn Growers Association, and the Kentucky Soybean Association, to name a few.

**"I learned a long time ago, that you can accomplish about anything, as long as you didn't care who got the credit, and I've tried to live by that in working with people. I hope I have made agriculture in Kentucky a little better, along the way."**

**- Sam Moore**

James Stuecker has given 40 years of service to Farm Bureau becoming a director of Hardin County Farm Bureau (HCFB) in 1998. During those years leading up to today, HCFB has grown from 7,500 members to 11,000. During the last 11 years, Stuecker has served on the Membership and Insurance Service Committees, in which he has been involved with promoting new member services in Hardin County.

"I'm pleased and surprised to receive this honor, but it makes me feel great to have been given this award," he said. "I've been around Farm Bureau for a long time and been involved in many projects, and I have seen how important it is to have Farm Bureau in every county."

Through the years, in addition to being involved with his farming operation, which consists of tobacco, livestock, and grain on 1,500 acres, he has also been involved in local community projects and events such as 4-H livestock judging, helping the local FFA to build book barns distributed to area elementary schools, as well as helping with ag programs and displays at the county fair.

Both award recipients were honored during the KFB Annual Meeting. KFB President Mark Haney said the dedication these two recipients have shown to the organization and to the industry over the years sets an example for others to follow.

"It takes the kind of involvement and leadership both Mr. Moore and Mr. Stuecker have exhibited over the years to move our organization and the ag industry forward," he said. "They certainly have set the bar high and serve as excellent role models for future generations to learn from and emulate."



## TRISHA CAMPBELL OF LOGAN COUNTY WINS 2019 KFB DISCUSSION MEET

**T**risha Campbell of Logan County won first place in Kentucky Farm Bureau's (KFB) Discussion Meet, a debate-styled competition for young farmers. The Discussion Meet tests entrants on their basic knowledge of critical farm issues and their ability to respond in a panel-type discussion. The competition was one of the highlighted activities of Friday night's general session at KFB's 2019 annual meeting.

Campbell participated with three other entrants in the final event Friday evening, winning a Kawasaki MULE donated by Southern Farm Bureau Life and Jacobi Sales. She also won a trip to the national finals in Austin, TX as part of the American Farm Bureau Federation's annual convention, January 17-22, 2020. When Campbell travels to Austin next month, she will be competing for prizes including a new Ford truck.

The runner-up in the state Discussion Meet was Brandon Gilles of Daviess County who received \$1,000 from KFB.

The additional two finalists in the state-level contest were Jacob Patterson of Pulaski County and Jade Sadler of Hardin County. They each received \$200 cash awards from Kentucky Farm Bureau.

This year's Discussion Meet Question: Products like cell-based products have demonstrated the food system is rapidly changing. How can future food technologies and related products be beneficially integrated into modern agricultural production without hampering the success of traditional products and the farmers and ranchers who grow them?



*Trisha Campbell, winner of the 2019 KFB Discussion Meet posed with KFB Leadership after receiving the award during this year's Annual Meeting.*

## 2019 KFB COMMUNICATIONS AWARD AND FARM PUBLIC RELATIONS AWARD WINNERS

**B**rooke Stansbury of Knox County and Julie Fritsch of Bourbon County were recognized as this year's Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) Communications Award and Farm Public Relations Award recipients, respectively.

The KFB Communications Award recognizes and honors the outstanding efforts of a professional journalist whose recent work has contributed to a better public understanding and appreciation of the people, communities, and issues connected to Kentucky agriculture.

Stansbury is an Early Childhood Ambassador for Save the Children and has previously worked as a public-school teacher and as a newspaper editor. She grew up on a tobacco farm in Lily, Kentucky and has helped showcase various agriculture and KFB-related stories in the Mountain Advocate, where she was editor. She was nominated for the annual Communications Award by the Knox County Farm Bureau.

The KFB Farm Public Relations Award recognizes and honors the outstanding efforts of individuals who, in their chosen (non-journalistic) profession, inform Kentuckians about agriculture and the accomplishments of individual farmers.

Fritsch is a communications and marketing freelance writer emphasizing agriculture-focused businesses to help build their brands. She and her husband Andrew own part of Fritsch Farms, a fifth-generation beef, hay, and row-crop farm in Bourbon County. Previously, Julie was a 4-H agent and a Communications and Marketing Director for the National Association of Agricultural Educators. Julie and Andrew have two children. She was nominated for the Farm PR Award by the Bourbon County Farm Bureau.

## KIRBY GREEN FROM DAVIESS COUNTY WINS EXCELLENCE IN AGRICULTURE AWARD

**K**irby Green from Daviess County has won top honors in Kentucky Farm Bureau's (KFB) Excellence in Agriculture Awards program for 2019.

Each year, the KFB Excellence in Agriculture competition awards first, second, and third place distinctions to individuals or couples under the age of 35 who contribute to, and exhibit leadership growth from, consistent involvement in Farm Bureau and other agriculture and civic-oriented organizations. To qualify, contestants must not have the majority of their income subject to normal production risks associated with farming.

Kirby worked on her family farm for 18 years where she learned to understand the efforts needed to keep farms sustainable. Today, she is an agribusiness professional where she helps farmers grow their crops and their profits. Kirby also helps young professionals stay sharp by hosting a podcast and a blog. She enjoys being active in her community, leading on local and state boards, serving in the church and mentoring a group of young women in agriculture.

Green was presented with a John Deere Gator, courtesy of Farm Credit Mid-America, and an expenses-paid trip to the AFBF annual meeting where she will represent Kentucky in the national competition in Austin, TX, January 17-22, 2020.

Second place in the contest went to Ann Margaret Hughes of Wayne County who was awarded \$400 courtesy of KFB. Evan Kyle Trowbridge of Marion County placed third and received \$300 from KFB.



*Kirby Green addressed the audience after being named the KFB Excellence in Agriculture winner.*

## KFB'S WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL GRANT WINNER AND EXCELLENCE IN AG LITERACY RECIPIENT HONORED

**L**eslie McCarty of Montgomery County is the 2019 Women's Educational Grant winner and Kelly Gates of Hopkins County has been named the Excellence in Ag Literacy recipient. Leslie McCarty received a \$1,500 grant to resume her education after previously leaving school to fulfill family responsibilities. Kelly Gates received \$500 and an expense-paid trip to the National Ag in the Classroom Conference where she will represent Kentucky in the national competition.

The \$1,500 Women's Educational Grant is awarded annually to a non-traditional, female student who is interested in resuming her education after previously leaving school to fulfill either family or work-related responsibilities.

KFB's "Excellence in Ag Literacy Award" is designed to recognize and reward teachers who excel in their efforts to incorporate agricultural concepts throughout their core academic studies.

# THE 100TH KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU ANNUAL MEETING: A POSTSCRIPT IN PICTURES



*A record crowd attended the 100TH KFB Annual Meeting*



*The Variety Showcase feature top-notch talent from across the state.*



*USDA Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation Bill Northey*



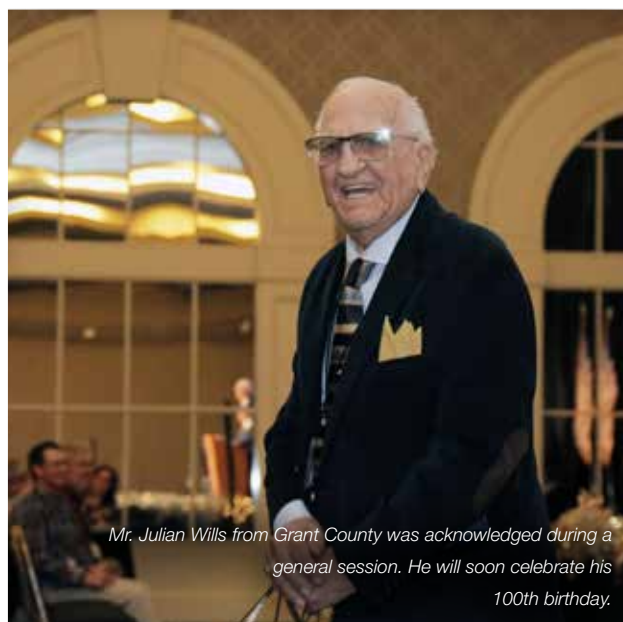
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Mitch McConnell*



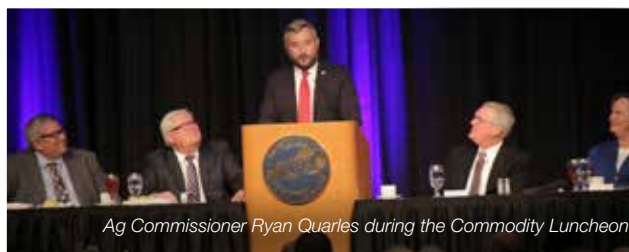
*Discussion Meet participants*



*Miss Kentucky, Alex Francke, spoke to Variety Showcase participants before they performed.*



*Mr. Julian Wills from Grant County was acknowledged during a general session. He will soon celebrate his 100th birthday.*



*Ag Commissioner Ryan Quarles during the Commodity Luncheon*



*KFB President Mark Haney and First Vice President Eddie Melton preside over a business session*

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*Continued from page 6:* KFB President Mark Haney led the efforts to form the committee comprised of staff from the Federation and the Insurance company, as well as leadership at the local level who will help guide strategic planning for the future of the entire organization. The committee is being co-chaired by KFB Second Vice President Sharon Furches and Organization Division Director Matthew W. Ingram.

Haney said it is critical that the organization takes steps to look toward the future, while learning from the past.

"In order for our organization to remain relevant, we must not rest on our laurels but rather look down the road as we make a united effort to serve as the strong advocacy organization so many members, who have come before us, initiated," he said. "And a big part of our future success lies in the hands of a new generation, a new crop of farm families, and new and inventive additions to the ag industry. Vision 100 will help produce a plan to move KFB into the future, as the agricultural industry moves into the future."



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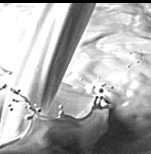
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# CANDID CONVERSATION

**K**FB 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, Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles discusses state agricultural issues as he prepares to serve a second term in office.

## **Congratulations on being re-elected. As you prepare for the next four years, what are some of the successes you saw during your first term?**

*I am honored the people of Kentucky entrusted me with a second term as Kentucky's Commissioner of Agriculture. The Department's successes include:*

- Supporting the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association's efforts to put locally-produced beef in grocery stores across the state;
- Expanding our state's agricultural portfolio to include hemp and hops;
- Seeking international trade opportunities;
- Inspecting for credit card skimmers at gas pumps
- Rallying our farm families around the fight to reduce hunger; and
- Raising millions of dollars for Kentucky 4-H and Kentucky FFA through the Ag Tag program.

*What I am most proud of is that we did all of this and more with a positive, unifying message: that at the end of the day, good farm or ag policy is not about being a Republican or a Democrat, it's about what's best for our farmers.*

## **In looking forward, what are some of the issues you expect to take on during the next term?**

*During the campaign season, I traveled to all 120 counties, put the tailgate down on many farm trucks, and listened to the concerns of Kentucky farm families. I heard you all loud and clear, and we're going to continue speaking up for rural Kentucky for the next four years.*

*A major priority in the second term will be the expansion of international trade. Unfair retaliatory tariffs from foreign countries have targeted America's heartland and our agricultural producers. While President*



*During this year's Annual Meeting, KFB President Mark Haney presented Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner, Ryan Quarles, a Louisville Slugger for going to bat for Kentucky farmers.*

*Trump and his administration have provided a trade mitigation program to reduce the impact, I know that our farmers want trade, not aid. We will not sit still while trade negotiations with China and other nations play out. We will stand up and urge countries around the world to look to Kentucky when buying ag products.*

*Additionally, we will continue to hold a discussion about ag tech and Kentucky. With the advent of the AppHarvest megagreenhouse in Morehead, the University of Kentucky's ongoing research, and the presence of Alltech in our backyard, there is a movement growing in our state that is creating 21st century agricultural technology jobs that have the ability to draw young people into our industry and make our farmers' jobs easier.*

## **What do you see as some of the biggest challenges farm families are facing today?**

*Depressed farm income and low commodity prices are definitely at the top of our list of challenges. So we've got to*

*increase demand for the supply of products out there and we can do that by increasing markets. Another big obstacle for Kentucky's farm families is rural connectivity. Due to the lack of connectivity, too many of our farmers cannot compete in the marketplace. This problem goes beyond buying and selling goods; it's an educational issue as well. Too many of our rural kids can't do their homework because of lack of reliable high-speed internet. It's time to solve this problem once and for all. I went to the White House last year at President Trump's invitation for a roundtable discussion about rural infrastructure. While the farm bill included some money for rural infrastructure, we need to encourage Congress to do more in this area.*

## **With challenges come opportunities. What are some opportunities our farm families can look forward to?**

*Kentucky is emerging as the epicenter of the nation's hemp industry, and we look forward to another year of growth and progress in 2020 as we work to build an*



industry that connects the Commonwealth's past to its future. Kentucky is recognized nationally as a leader in the local food movement, driven in no small part by Kentucky Proud, and we will continue to help Kentucky farmers and food producers find markets for their products.

**You have been very involved at the national level. Any thoughts on what issues need the most from an advocacy standpoint?**

The greatest single action that Congress can take this year is to ratify USMCA. As I write this, it has been more than a year since the United States, Mexico, and Canada agreed to the trade deal. It is beyond time that our leaders in Washington, D.C. passed this deal. USMCA maintains near-tariff-free trade access for American agriculture and secured expanded access for dairy and poultry. Nearly everyone believes Congress will eventually ratify the deal. It is a shame Congress cannot get their act together, put partisan politics aside, and give trade certainty to not only farmers, but businesses across our state and nation.

**Farm Bureau and Ryan Quarles have such a great relationship. What would you say to our members as you begin this next term?**

Not a day goes by at the Kentucky Department of Agriculture that we do not interact with Kentucky Farm Bureau. As your Commissioner, I promise to continue working with Farm Bureau and its members for the next four years just as I did for the last four. I look forward to our continued partnership as we deliver solutions for the more than 75,000 farm families in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.



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# DOWN THE BACKROADS

By Tim Thornberry

## A To-Do List for 2020

I suppose it is the time of year many of us look back and reflect on the year that is about to lapse and the new one, coming up. The trouble I have at the end of each year, is trying to deal with how fast the last 365 days have gone by.

My mom used to tell me that the older you get, the faster time flies. I was quite young, a teenager I think, when she first told me this. And I could not identify with her assessment, at that point in time.

Just goes to show we should all listen to our mommas because she was so right! The older I have gotten, the quicker the days go by and all the happenings that take place during each of those days.

And just as anxiously as I try to recall all that has taken place over the past year, I eagerly look forward to the new one, trying to imagine what the next 365 days will bring.

Most people make resolutions for New Year's, but I have found I can't keep those, no matter how hard I try.

I'm much better with to-do lists, well, at least I think so. My wife would beg to differ, but we will save that topic for another day.

So, for 2020, I have made a list of things I hope to accomplish. First, I want to make sure I say at least one good thing each day, about any person I don't like. I know, I know, we are all supposed to like everyone. But, let's be honest. We all have that one person that gets on our last nerve. You know it and I know it. However, I have discovered that it's hard to not like someone if you are saying nice things about them.

Next, I want to make sure I share my blessings with someone I don't know. Like paying for the person behind me in the drive-up window lane, every now and then. Or, giving a little extra time to a local charity. Or, something as simple as holding the door open for someone at the supermarket. Little gestures of kindness can often be the high point of the day for some folks.

I would also like to spend more time with family and friends. How many times have we all said that only to do just the opposite? I have sometimes found I don't realize how much family and friends mean to me until one is no longer here. I don't want to have regrets over that. I would rather have fond memories.

And lastly, I want to take more time to enjoy the beauty around me. I so often travel across the state and see such beautiful scenery, only to make every excuse in the book as to why I don't have time to stop and preserve that beauty with the camera that is always by my side. My memory can only keep that image stored for so long so, I want to make sure I capture more of this beautiful world and stop making excuses.

As I look over this list, I don't think it is too long or unreasonable. I can do all of these things and never have to hit the gym or give up cheeseburgers and chocolate. By the way, I hope my doctor doesn't read this!

My wish for 2020 is that it brings hope and peace and kindness to each of us. May we have bountiful crops and smooth sailing on the farm. And may we all stop to see the beauty that surrounds us, as we travel down the backroads.

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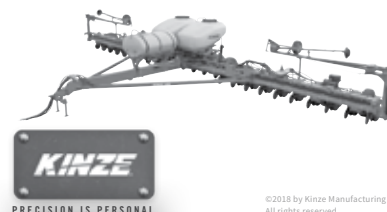
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