

# Of Cows & Plows



## February 2009

### Winter School

February marks the beginning of Winter Schools here in Franklin County. Thursday evenings starting February 5th and continuing through March. At 7:00 we will gather together for information, fellowship and refreshments. The topics this year include:



Feb 5 **Solar Energy for the Home and Farm** - Learn how solar energy can be used to provide electricity, space heating, and water heating for your home or farm. Workshop presented by the Kentucky Solar Partnership, Kentucky Solar Energy Society, and Solar Energy Solutions, LLC.

Feb 12 **Home Meat Finishing & Processing** - Gregg Rentfrow, UK Meat Science Extension Specialist, will discuss how to choose an animal for finishing, finishing rations and working with your slaughter house/abattoir for the final product.

Feb 19 **Backyard Poultry Part II** – Last year's session generated so much interest that we decided to do a follow up and focus on the hands-on aspect. Jack Kuhn will once again offer his 30 years of wisdom & experience for starting & managing a home flock of laying hens or broilers.

Feb 26 **Farm Pond Management** – Having trouble with weeds on your pond? Curious about aquaculture? Dr. Bob Durborow, State Extension Specialist for Aquaculture will cover all the woes of pond ownership.

Winter School topics coming up in March:

BQA chute side training, Tobacco production, high & low tunnel vegetable production, small space square foot gardening and early season production.

Farmer's Bank and Farm Credit Services of Shelbyville graciously sponsor the refreshments for these functions. Be sure and thank them for their support! Hope to see you there!

## Phase I Cost Share

Franklin County Cattlemen's Association is the sponsor for the Phase I state model Menu Approach for the following model programs: Agricultural Diversification, Cattle Genetics Improvement, Cattle Handling Facilities, Farm Livestock Fencing Improvement, Hay, Straw and Commodity Storage and Technology.

Applications will be available here later this month. Watch the paper for details or come by towards the end of the month.

*According to the Kentucky 2002*

### *Census of Agriculture:*

- Number of KY tobacco farms declined 38 percent from 1997. Tobacco acres harvested fell 56 percent.



Jack Kuhn pointing out the properties and imperfections of eggs at the Poultry session of Winter School 2008

## New Calendars are Here!

We now have a limited number of copies of the 2009 Beef IRM Production & Management Calendars as well as the Pocket Record Books. Stop by and pick up yours now.



## 29th Kentucky Alfalfa Conference

February 19, Cave City, KY. For details see <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forage/29th%20KAC%20program%20columns.pdf>

## The 43rd Annual National Farm Machinery Show & Championship Tractor Pull

Wednesday, February 11<sup>th</sup> through Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Kentucky Fair & Exposition Center, Louisville. Free Admission (parking is \$5.00)



# KY Forage and Grassland Council

### Why join the KFGC?

The Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council is for developing and coordinating our forage industry.

### Simply Put:

- Increase yields
- Improve quality
- Increase efficiency of production
- Promote better utilization of the forages produced
- Develop improved marketing systems

### ACTIVITIES:

1. Educational meetings to learn and exchange ideas on the production and utilization of forages.
2. Forage tours and field days to see research and extension work and farmer and industry experience with forages.
3. Print and distribute newsletters and other publications dealing with forage activities and information.
4. Awards program to recognize outstanding accomplishments by forage producers and leaders in education and industry.
5. Coordinate forage promotion efforts with other state and national organizations.
6. Cooperate with state and federal agencies, educational institutions and local organizations in forage research, development and educational efforts.

<http://www.kfgc.org/>

Annual Membership:

Individual - \$20 (includes AFGC Membership)  
Corporate - \$40 (includes AFGC Membership)

Mail To:

Tom Keene, UK  
N222-B Ag. Science North  
Lexington, KY 40546-0091

# MID-SOUTH STOCKER CONFERENCE

February 24-25, 2009  
Lake Barkley Lodge, Cadiz, KY

## TUESDAY – Feb. 24

11:30 AM BUS TOUR (lunch provided)  
Stop 1. Scott Jolly's Stocker Operation, Cadiz  
Stop 2. Fox Creek Cattle Co./Sorrell Farms,  
Hopkinsville Stop 3. King Livestock Co.,  
Hopkinsville Stop 4 Tim Cato's Stocker  
Operation, Hopkinsville  
6:00 PM Reception and Trade Show  
7:00 PM Dinner (Flat-iron Steak)  
**Lodging – Lake Barkley Lodge (call 1-800-325-  
1708 for reservations at room rate of \$44.95)**

## WEDNESDAY – Feb. 25

7:00 AM Trade Show with “country ham and  
biscuits”  
8:55 AM Welcome – Dr. Roy Burris, UK  
9:00 AM Value of Veterinary Service to Stocker  
Operations – Dr. Dee Griffin, MARC, Clay  
Center, NE  
9:45 AM Survival and Sustainability of the  
Stocker Industry – Dr. Walt Prevalt, Auburn  
10:30 AM Break/Trade Show  
11:00 AM Producer Panel – Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler,  
UK; Dick Ryan, Lodi, Wisconsin; Leamon  
Bratton, Clarksville, Tennessee  
11:45 AM Lunch/Trade Show  
1:00 PM Market Outlook – Michael Murphy,  
Cattle-Fax  
1:45 PM Implications of Phosphorus in Feeds  
and Fertilizer Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler  
2:30 PM Current Status of COOL - Nate Jaeger,  
NCBA  
3:00 PM Adjourn

The preregistration fee for the conference  
(includes tour/reception meals, proceedings and  
access to the trade show) is \$95 per person. You  
may register online [www.midsouthstocker.org](http://www.midsouthstocker.org)  
Call if you have any questions – Roy Burris 270-  
365-7541, Ext. 208, or Jeff Lehmkuhler 859-257-  
2853.

# Need It? Rent It!

Spring is right around the corner and many will  
want to improve pastures and hayfields racked  
by two years of drought. The Franklin County  
Conservation District has the following  
equipment available for rent for agricultural  
purposes:

- 4 No-Till Drills
- 1 Lime Spreader
- 1 Tree Planter
- 1 Chain Harrow

For rates and details on rental procedures  
contact Terri at 695-5203 X3.

## Phase I Cost

# Share Programs

### Conceptual Changes to Model/Menu Programs:

The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board  
(KADB) is considering changes in the policies and  
processes for the County Model Programs and the  
Menu Approach Program for Model Programs. These  
changes are motivated by the desire of the KADB to  
ensure maximum access and broad participation in  
these programs.

#### Concept 1: Name change

It is proposed that the program will be known as the  
“County Agriculture Investment Program”. Model  
Programs will now be known as “investment areas”.

#### Concept 2: All Investment Areas Will Be Offered in Menu Fashion

It is proposed that all investment areas approved by  
the Agricultural Development Board will be made  
available to all eligible producers. Incorporating all  
investment areas into one program will allow for a  
greater variety of offerings and broader access for  
participation to all producers in the county.

#### Concept 3: County Agriculture Investment Program Term

It is proposed that all County Agriculture Investment  
Programs will have a term of 12 months from the  
date of execution of the legal agreement. A

consistent duration for all programs will provide uniformity and continuity for program administration as well as improving the ability for compliance to track closing dates.

**Concept 4: Funds Available to Individual Producers Will Be Limited on an Annual Basis**

The drought conditions of the past two years have created a need for additional on-farm investments. Therefore it is proposed that the County Agriculture Investment Program will provide a maximum of \$7,500 to any individual eligible producer for county programs initiated in 2009. A producer may apply for multiple investment areas however the total award may not exceed \$7,500 annually. County Councils may elect to reduce the per producer cost share limits.

**Concept 5: Allocation of County Funds to County Agriculture Investment Program**

County Funds for the County Agriculture Investment Program may not be allocated per investment area, but only to the program as a whole. If the county elects to reduce the per producer annual cost-share limits, that reduction shall apply to all investment areas. For example, if a county chooses to reduce the maximum cost share available in the Farm Livestock Fencing Improvement investment area to \$1500, then all other investment areas shall be reduced to \$1500 as well.

**Concept 6: Tobacco Dependency Defined**

Tobacco dependency restrictions have prevented some producers from being eligible for participating in County Agriculture Investment Programs. It is proposed that, for the purposes of the County Agriculture Investment Program, tobacco dependence is defined as: "A producer applicant who has received a Phase II check, a Buyout check, or who grew and marketed tobacco during the previous growing and marketing season. The Agricultural Development Board considers the son or daughter of these individuals as tobacco dependent." Lack of tobacco dependency shall not automatically render a producer ineligible for program participation.

**Concept 7: Producer Lifetime Limits Will Be Eliminated**

It is proposed that the producer lifetime limits be eliminated. Adoption of the annual cost-share limit paired with the eligible producer definition will make

the lifetime limit unnecessary while allowing for more efficient and accurate compliance and tracking of producer payments. Producer payments will still be monitored and will be available on the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy website.

**Concept 8: Standardized Application and Scoring System**

In an effort to ensure equity among producers across all investment areas, it is proposed that a standardized application and scoring system be developed that will be utilized by all County Councils. Individual applications will be scored against all applications submitted for the County Agriculture Investment Program investment areas. Applications will not be scored by individual investment area or on a first come/first served basis. Tobacco dependency, prior receipt of county funds, and beginning farmer status will be a part of the standardized scoring criteria.

**Concept 9: One County Administrator Per County**

In order to achieve a higher level of program compliance, based on independent audit findings and recommendations, it is proposed that each county will designate a single lead administrator that will be responsible for compliance reporting, disbursement, and all other contractual obligations. However, the lead administrator would be allowed to subcontract portions of administrative services. This change will provide for streamlined accountability for compliance as well as improved communication between the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy staff and county administrators. This new program concept provides an opportunity to consolidate and simplify educational requirements for investment areas.

**Concept 10: Investment Area Change**

It is proposed that the percentage of county cost share in the Cattle Genetics investment area be reduced from 50% to 33% (Producer contribution 67%, County Agriculture Investment Program contribution 33%). It is also proposed that the dollar limit and number of head limit be removed for both bulls and heifers. Raising of the EPD requirements is also being considered.

For details visit

[http://agpolicy.ky.gov/board/policy\\_concepts.shtml](http://agpolicy.ky.gov/board/policy_concepts.shtml)

# Small-scale, Home-use and Recreational Aqua Presentation

KSU Aquaculture  
Saturday, Feb. 28

Several areas to be covered including Low-input Shrimp Farming, Managing Bass & Bluegill in Farm Ponds, Small-scale Catfish Farming, Pond Construction, and Liming Ponds. Contact Dr. Bill Wurts, 270-365-7541 X200, [wwurts@uky.edu](mailto:wwurts@uky.edu)



## NRCS ANNOUNCES CHANGES TO WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP) AND SIGN UP DATE

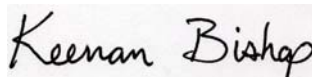
NRCS is accepting applications for the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP). Application ranking cutoff dates are January 30, 2009; March 27, 2009; and May 29, 2009. WRP applications are continually accepted and those applications received after the cutoff dates will be deferred until the next ranking cycle.

The Wetlands Reserve Program is a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property. Since 1996, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has provided Kentucky landowners over \$24,000,000 to restore 16,000 acres of cropland, pastureland and other altered lands to their original wetland conditions.

The compensation portion of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 for WRP is effective immediately and may be of special interest to local landowners. The new language in the 2008 Farm Bill authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to pay as compensation for a WRP easement the fair market value of the land, as determined by an appraisal or an area-wide market analysis or survey. The amount paid is limited to a geographic cap or the landowner offer, whichever is less. Landowners can view the geographic rate cap, which establishes the maximum easement payment NRCS will pay for the corresponding county, and other program information, on the NRCS Kentucky Web page: <http://www.ky.nrcs.usda.gov/programs>. Scroll down to **Wetlands Reserve Program**.

Landowners can enroll their land under a permanent easement option for a lump sum easement payment and up to 100 percent of the wetland restoration costs. Eligible lands include farmed wetlands, prior converted cropland, farmed wetland pasture, farmland that floods from rivers, farmland with somewhat poorly drained soils, and current or abandoned cropland with tile lines, drainage ditches, dikes or other similar alterations.

To see if your land qualifies, contact Terri Estes or Peggy Jackson at 695-5203 X3.



Keenan Bishop  
County Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources

### DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

Any person who believes they have been discriminated against in any Cooperative Extension sponsored program or activity may file a complaint with the Secretary of Agriculture by writing to:

USDA, Director  
Office of Civil Rights  
Room 326-W, Whitten Bldg.  
14<sup>th</sup> & Independence Ave SW  
Washington, DC 20250-9410

A complaint must be filed no later than 180 days from the date of the alleged discrimination.



**Cooperative Extension Service**  
*University of Kentucky*  
*Franklin County*  
*101 Lakeview Court*  
*Frankfort, KY 40601-4950*

NONPROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
FRANKFORT, KY  
PERMIT 10090

## **Return Service Requested**

# SOLAR ENERGY FOR THE HOME AND FARM

Winter School starts off this year on February 5<sup>th</sup> “green”. Learn how solar energy can be used to provide electricity, space heating, and water heating for your home or farm. This presentation will offer an introduction to solar photovoltaics (for generating electricity), passive solar design, and solar water heating systems. Workshop presenters will be Andy McDonald, Director of the Kentucky Solar Partnership and Chairman of the Kentucky Solar Energy Society, and Matt Partymiller of Solar Energy Solutions, LLC.

For more info on solar visit [www.kysolar.org](http://www.kysolar.org).

The complete Winter School schedule is inside.

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