

From Governor **STEVE
BESHEAR**



Greetings:

The face of agriculture is constantly changing. Over the last decade, Kentucky has transformed from a state heavily dependent on tobacco production and traditional livestock enterprises to one that is now very diversified.

The Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund has been crucial to this transformation. I remain committed to ensuring that 50 percent of the Tobacco Settlement Funds are invested each year in agriculture. The Agricultural Development Board, which I am proud to chair, has invested over \$268 million in projects across the Commonwealth.

Through the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund, we are positioning agriculture to be a leader in the development of alternative energy sources and plant-made pharmaceuticals. With continued investments in research and development, the Commonwealth can become less dependent on foreign sources of energy.

We currently have a 50-million-gallon biodiesel plant, a 33-million-gallon ethanol plant, and the only commercial-scale plant-made pharmaceutical facility in the world that extracts purified proteins and other value-added products from plants. Through diversification and collaboration with international biotech companies to bring high-tech initiatives to our state, Kentucky agriculture will continue to be an integral part of the Commonwealth's rural economy.

The agriculture industry must work toward a comprehensive and forward-thinking approach. In January 2008, I accepted the Strategic Plan for Agriculture created by the Task Force on the Future of Agriculture. This plan addresses the challenges and opportunities facing farm families and rural communities at present and in the future.

Now is the time to pursue and take advantage of these new opportunities so that our farm families not only survive but thrive. We must become a state in which imagination and innovation are vibrant energies that transform Kentucky into a better place to work, live, and play while maintaining a strong agricultural economy and continuing to improve net farm income.

Governor **STEVEN L. BESHEAR**

From Agriculture Commissioner **RICHIE
FARMER**



Dear friends,

Kentucky farmers have built upon their gains from recent years but also have been confronted with new challenges.

Kentucky farmgate receipts reached a record \$4.43 billion in 2007, and at this writing it looks as if that record could fall in 2008. The Kentucky Proud farm marketing program is generating tens of millions of dollars in retail sales of Kentucky farm products each year. Consumers increasingly are looking for local food in response to food safety scares.

It is still difficult to make a living on the farm, however. Kentucky producers endured their second straight dry summer in 2008, which cut into crop yields after a wet spring. Prices for nearly all farm commodities fell in the fall of 2008. After strong showings in previous years, prices for Kentucky's world-renowned thoroughbreds also declined. At the same time, costs of farm inputs such as feed, fuel and fertilizer have risen sharply, eating into producers' profit margins. And we do not know yet how the financial troubles on Wall Street will impact Kentucky's rural communities.

At a time like this, it's important for Kentucky's many and varied agricultural interests to work together. And it's happening. In 2007, more than 50 agricultural organizations combined their efforts to create the Strategic Plan for Kentucky Agriculture. In September 2008, I had the pleasure of joining other elected officials and dignitaries to break ground for an expansion and renovation of the University of Kentucky Livestock Disease Diagnostic Center that will help us keep our herds disease free.

When we work together as a team, we can accomplish great things. That's why I am confident in the future of Kentucky agriculture.

Commissioner **RICHIE FARMER**

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Kentucky Department of Agriculture Structure and Programs 2009

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Recruits for, publicizes and administers "Kentucky Proud" logo program for Kentucky-produced foods and food products.

Division of Agriculture Education, Farm Safety, and Farmland Preservation

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Promotes products from state farmers, food manufacturers, agribusinesses and commodity groups • Operates international trade offices • Develops export opportunities for *Ky* businesses, co-ops, and agribusinesses.

Division of Agritourism

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Develops markets and facilities for state livestock and aquaculture • Reports on statewide livestock sales.

Division of Value-Added Plant Production

Kristen Branscum, Division Director

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Promotes marketing of Kentucky fruits and vegetables through wholesale and direct distribution channels, including co-ops, farmers' markets, auctions and restaurants • Tests hay, haylages, and forages • Promotes *Ky* nursery, greenhouse and landscape industries • Certifies organic farms • Regulates ginseng marketing • Promotes wood products and non-timber forest products • Grape & Wine Council.

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Division of Environmental Services

Patrick Gilbert, Acting Division Director

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Regulates pest control companies, lawn care businesses, pesticide dealers, golf groundskeepers and pesticide applicators • Investigates pesticide incidents and complaints • Trains, licenses and certifies agricultural pesticide applicators and structural pest control operators • Registers and regulates sale and distribution of pesticide products • Controls mosquitoes, thistles, and blackflies for farms and local governments • Collects and disposes of unused, unwanted and outdated farm pesticides • Recycles pesticide containers • Researches and educates about pesticide-related water quality issues.

Division of Food Distribution

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Administers USDA food and nutrition programs and assists with farmers' markets and nutrition programs for the elderly, new mothers and infants.

Division of Regulation and Inspection

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Inspects eggs, retail motor fuel pumps, amusement rides, limestone, retail price scanners, motor fuel, high volume and industrial scales, propane meters, large vehicle scales, rail and coal scales, and farm milk tanks • Grain regulation and insurance program, grain moisture meter and scale inspection • Tobacco warehouse regulation and tobacco market scales • Teens and Tobacco program • Metrology laboratory for calibration of gravimetric and volumetric test measures • Motor fuel quality testing laboratory • Agency fleet administration.

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Division of Producer Services

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Promotes the health and economy of *Ky* animal industries • Liaison between KDA, animal producers and state government/legislators • Licenses livestock markets, dealers, and rendering plants • Provides permits for interstate animal movement • Maintains animal health program databases, premises identification system, beekeeping program, captive cervid program and branding program.

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Web-based technologies, application development, data management, wireless and mobile initiatives • Computer hardware, software and infrastructure support • Technology project coordination, development and maintenance.

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The Year 2008 at KDA

Ted Sloan



Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer presents First Lady Jane Beshear with an Honorary Commissioner of Agriculture certificate, to the delight of Gov. Steve Beshear, right, and other dignitaries during a special farmers' market at the Capitol in June 2008.

Kentucky Proud, 1,300-plus strong, now state's official farm marketer

The Kentucky Proud movement grew to more than 1,300 members by summer's end in 2008 and forged a new high-profile alliance.

Kentucky Proud became the state's permanent farm marketing program when Governor Steve Beshear signed House Bill 626 into law during a special farmers' market on the Capitol grounds in June 2008. The Kentucky General Assembly passed the measure the previous April.

"House Bill 626 will ensure that Kentucky producers, consumers, and the rural economy will benefit from the Kentucky Proud Program well into the future," said Gov. Beshear. "It will give our citizens the assurance that purchasing food with the Kentucky Proud label means it's a fresh, locally grown product."

"Kentucky Proud has been very successful in much of the state, and this legislation provides the stability to take the Kentucky Proud movement to a higher level," Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer said.

Free search engine links users to Kentucky Proud members, products

Looking for a beef producer close to home? Trying to find out where you can buy your favorite Kentucky Proud products? The Kentucky Department of Agriculture has launched an Internet search engine to enable consumers and businesses to find Kentucky Proud foods and products.

"The Kentucky Proud search engine is easy to use, and it's free," Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer said. "Anyone can search through about 1,300 Kentucky Proud members selling more than 18,000 products. We expect it will boost sales of Kentucky Proud products, which will mean more income for Kentucky farmers and more economic activity in our rural communities."

Users may narrow their search to specific products in a county or city, or search for all products in a county or city. The search result



provides links for viewing details of each member's listing.

Each listing contains contact information for the Kentucky Proud member, the products the member produces and/or sells, the member's physical address, and the Web site address if the member has a site.

To use the search engine: From the KDA Web site, www.kyagr.com, at the Kentucky Proud pull-down menu, click "Find Ky Proud Producers" or "Find Ky Proud Products."

Kentucky Proud welcomed Save-A-Lot to its roster of retail partners in August 2008 to get Kentucky farm products into the grocery chain's 102 Kentucky stores.

"Kentucky Proud is all about forging partnerships and helping Kentucky producers find markets for their products," Commissioner Farmer said. "This

partnership will help many Kentucky farmers make a living on the farm. It will provide Save-A-Lot customers the opportunity to buy fresh, nutritious, great-tasting Kentucky Proud products and keep their food dollars close to home. And it will be good for Save-A-Lot, too. Everybody wins."

Save-A-Lot joined a list of Kentucky Proud retail partners that includes bigg's, Doll's Market, Good Foods Co-Op, Kroger, Liquor Barn, Meijer, Paul's Market, Rainbow Blossom, Remke Markets, Slone's Signature Markets, ValuMarket, Wal-Mart, Whole Foods and numerous independent grocery stores. The familiar blue, green and red logo has shown up in Disney Properties and in the executive suites of the Colorado Rockies and Seattle Mariners baseball teams.

Save
a lot
food stores

Alex Tingle (second from left) put out so many tomato plants that he became a supplier. His buyers were networked to him through connections made by the Kentucky Proud program.



A Kentucky Proud product received national acclaim in August 2008 when *The New York Times* praised Porchetta Primata. Porchetta is an Italian ham that has been deboned, rolled in rosemary and other seasonings, tied and roasted. The product is made from Duroc-Yorkshire crossbred hogs raised in Todd County, harvested in Hopkinsville and processed in Louisville.



Tronchetto, a spiced roast pork, is one of four specialty pork products from Porchetta Primata, a Kentucky Proud company in Todd County praised in *The New York Times*.

One of the youngest Kentucky Proud producers of 2008 was 15-year-old Alex Tingle of Jessamine County, who turned an FFA project that got out of hand into a massive tomato and pepper crop. Millard Long of Burlington bought Tingle's vegetables and processed them into sauces and salsas that showed up in northern Kentucky restaurants and on store shelves all over the Commonwealth.

Mac Stone became executive director of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's marketing office in February 2008, taking over the task of continuing the momentum of the Kentucky Proud movement. Stone is a Scott County farmer and former manager of the Kentucky State University farm in Franklin County.

Kentucky's state parks spent \$162,793 on Kentucky Proud food products in 2007. That was an increase of more than \$16,000 compared with 2006 despite the late freeze of April 2007 and the subsequent drought.

Kentucky Proud producers, processors, retailers, restaurants, farmers' markets and state parks throughout the Commonwealth are generating tens of millions of dollars in retail sales of Kentucky Proud products each year.

To find out more about Kentucky Proud, go to www.kyproud.com.



Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer chats with Carol Cassidy of Whitestone Farm and Bakery in Bagdad at the Heart of St. Matthews Farmers' Market in August 2008.

Farmers' markets offer food you can serve with confidence

The 2008 salmonella outbreak sent many Kentucky consumers to their local farmers' markets for fresh Kentucky Proud produce grown by their fellow Kentuckians.

"When you buy Kentucky Proud fruits and vegetables, you can be confident that they will be good for your family," Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer said.

Kentucky had an all-time high of 120 farmers' markets in 2008. Statewide sales for 2007 were estimated at \$8 million despite a late freeze and a severe drought.

More than 710 farmers' market vendors completed training on offering samples at farmers' markets, according to the 2008 Annual Farmers' Market Report. More than 1,000 Kentucky producers

completed training for handling produce to minimize the risk of contamination, the report said.

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture's Farmers' Market Program provides technical assistance for Kentucky farmers' markets and offers Kentucky Proud promotional items at cost.

The program worked with the state Department for Public Health and the Kentucky Farmers' Market Association to publish a procedural manual that assists farmers' markets. The program maintains a directory of markets' locations and hours.

To find out more about the Farmers' Market Program, go to www.kyagr.com, click on Programs, and click on Farmers' Markets.

Trade specialist **Silvia Alonso** helps develop export markets in Mexico

With agricultural exports booming, Kentucky hired international trade specialist Silvia Alonso to direct the state's Mexico trade office in July 2008.

She works under a contract between the state and trade consultant Global Business Partners Mexico. Kentucky's Guadalajara trade office is a joint venture of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and the state Cabinet for Economic Development.

"This is an opportune time for Kentucky producers to expand markets beyond our borders. I am pleased to have someone with Ms. Alonso's qualifications to help our producers sell more Kentucky Proud products in Mexico," Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer said.

Alonso previously worked in Pennsylvania's Mexico trade office, where she helped some 200 businesses with market research, business assistance, customs and tariff assistance, cooperation agreements with federal and state governments, and market entry strategies.

Mexico is Kentucky's third-largest trade partner, trailing only Canada and France. Exports from Kentucky to Mexico in 2007 totaled \$1.4 billion, including \$30.5 million in agricultural products.

The latest forecast predicts U.S. agricultural exports will reach a record \$114 billion in fiscal



"I hope more Kentucky businesses will think globally and start with Mexico," international trade specialist Sylvia Alonso said.

2008, a dramatic increase of nearly 40 percent (\$32 billion) over 2007. Grains and animal products account for most of the export gains.

In March 2008, Commissioner Farmer and Mexico officials signed an agreement by which Kentucky's and Mexico's equine industries will share knowledge and resources, and set up commercial and technical exchanges to improve both equine industries.

Kentucky's horse industry has had success selling horses to Mexico worth "about \$17 to \$18 million," said Keeneland President Nick Nicholson. Live animal exports to Mexico totaled approximately \$91 million in 2007, of which 25 percent consisted of horses, jacks and hinnies.

To find how KDA can assist with international marketing, or to contact international marketing director Jonathan Van Balen, go to www.kyagr.com/marketing/agribusiness/international/index.htm.





The Kentucky Proud corn maze at the Murray State University Pullen Farm, July 2008.
Photo courtesy of Dr. Tony L. Brannon, Dean, MSU School of Agriculture.

Agritourism Web site offers choice of more than 300 farm fun destinations

A new state agritourism Web site and logo were introduced in 2008 to raise awareness of Kentucky's more than 300 farm-based destinations.

The online directory of Kentucky farm attractions at www.kentuckyfarmsarefun.com offers agritourism adventures searchable by activity, region or county.

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture and the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet launched the Web site, which listed 310 agritourism businesses in 82 Kentucky counties as of September 2008.

"Although these days fewer Kentuckians live on the farm, many want to learn more about agriculture, which has always been an important part of our Commonwealth's heritage," Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer said.

Tourism generates \$10 billion in economic activity every year in the Bluegrass State. To steer some of those dollars to the farm, the Kentucky Agritourism Council was formed in 2002. Carl Chaney of Bowling Green and Jeremy Hinton of Hodgenville were elected council chairman and vice chairman, respectively, in 2008.

Agritourism is defined as "the act of visiting a working farm or any agricultural, horticultural, or agribusiness operations for the purpose of enjoyment, education or active involvement in the activities of the farm or operation."

Agritourism helps people better understand the skill and hard work that go into producing the food and fiber we all enjoy. It's also a chance for great food and clean country fun at destinations close to home.

Agritourism offers an opportunity to build relationships between the agricultural community and the local tourism industry by incorporating tour groups, educating school children and hosting civic events. This increases rural economic development dollars in areas with agritourism venues.

The ultimate goal of an agritourism venue is to increase net farm income by filling customer needs for education and recreation on the farm.

For more information on interesting and enjoyable farm destinations in Kentucky, go to www.kentuckyfarmsarefun.com.





Lance Campbell pours fuel into a special four-horsepower engine that enables technicians to measure the octane level in the fuel.

State-of-the-art fuel lab protects Kentucky motorists

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture's \$1.65 million motor fuel and pesticide testing laboratory opened in 2008. By the fall of that year the lab was screening fuel from Kentucky gas stations and handling consumer complaints about bad gasoline.

"Because of the budget, this project is taking a little longer," Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer said. "But the benefits to the people of the Commonwealth will be enormous. With fuel prices as high as they are, it's essential to make sure that consumers get exactly what they pay for."

Tom Bloemer, manager of the Weights and Measures Branch of the KDA Division of Regulation and Inspection, said in the fall of 2008 that staff was in place and the facility lacked only some additional instrumentation.

When it becomes fully operational, the lab will enhance the KDA's ability to test motor fuel for quality and octane level. The lab also tests for the presence of methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), a fuel additive banned in Kentucky.

The state-of-the-art facility, located near

Frankfort, was designed to include a biofuel testing component. That will help KDA serve the Commonwealth's rapidly growing ethanol and biodiesel industries.

The lab will also enable the KDA to more comprehensively support its pesticide regulatory programs by following up on complaints and analyzing environmental residues.

The Department checks motor fuel pumps for accuracy and tests fuel samples to prevent Kentucky from becoming a dumping ground for bad gas.

The KDA once sent its motor fuel samples to an out-of-state laboratory for testing. As the cost of the tests increased, the number of samples taken fell tenfold, to fewer than 600 a year, exposing the need for the new facility.

The lab will have a testing capacity of more than 20,000 samples a year – enough to more than adequately sample motor fuels in Kentucky and offer contract testing services to other agencies and states. Added revenue from contract services would significantly reduce the cost of testing samples to protect Kentucky consumers.



Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer, front, joins Gov. Steve Beshear, right; Roger Thomas, executive director of the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy, left; and State Senator Joey Pendleton of Hopkinsville to announce the K.A.R.E. program in March 2008.

Officials show they K.A.R.E. with drought aid program

Nearly every Kentucky county is participating in a state program to provide relief to farmers affected by the 2007 drought.

Governor Steve Beshear and Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer announced the \$8.15 million Kentucky Agricultural Relief Effort (K.A.R.E.) program in March 2008. The program is funded with master tobacco settlement money and administered by the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy (GOAP).

"Not only did 118 out of 120 eligible counties take part in the K.A.R.E. program, but several counties committed additional County Agricultural Development Funds toward this initiative for a total of over \$9 million," said Gov. Beshear. "The cost-share assistance made available through the K.A.R.E. program is allowing our farmers to make needed improvements to help lessen the impact of future weather-related disasters."

Commissioner Farmer thanked Governor Beshear and Roger Thomas, executive director of GOAP, for their efforts to craft the K.A.R.E. program.

"I am optimistic about the future of Kentucky agriculture," Commissioner Farmer said. "Better days are ahead of us. This program helps ensure that all of Kentucky agriculture can get there together."

K.A.R.E. is designed to help producers pay for on-farm improvements and investments that will help reduce the impact of the drought. Farmers may seek funding for water projects, such as drilling, piping or hook-up to municipal water systems; forage projects; and other projects such as fencing, feeding equipment, animal waste handling equipment and crop insurance.

Production and yields for corn, soybeans, hay, tobacco, and winter wheat were significantly lower in 2007 than 2006 because of the drought and the April 2007 freeze. A continuing shortage of hay, along with record high prices for feed, fertilizer and fuel, led to a steep increase in farmers' input costs in 2008.

To find out more about the K.A.R.E. program, go to the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy Web site, <http://agpolicy.ky.gov>.

E-newsletter provides timely, important ag news

Kentucky Agricultural News Online keeps subscribers on top of what is happening in the fast-changing world of Kentucky agriculture.

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture launched the e-newsletter in May 2008. It is published on the 15th and 30th of every month.

"This e-newsletter delivers interesting stories and breaking news to hundreds of subscribers," Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer said. "*Kentucky Agricultural News Online* is a valuable one-stop source of information on what's going on in Kentucky agriculture."

Kentucky Agricultural News Online contains breaking news, features on Kentucky Proud producers, remarks by Commissioner Farmer, alerts on upcoming events, a Kentucky Farm Fact and other stories.

Readers can find information and news stories from the University of Kentucky, Kentucky Farm Bureau, the Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy and other agriculture organizations as well as the KDA.

Subscribe at www.kyagr.com/pr/newscenter/subscribe.aspx to be notified by e-mail of each new issue. Commissioner Farmer encourages readers to pass this link along to friends, associates or others who might be interested.



Kentucky's goat population was about 85,000 head on July 1, 2008, up 15 percent in 18 months. Photo courtesy Kentucky Sheep & Goat Development Office.



Kentucky maintains fifth place in goat production

Kentucky was one of the top five states in number of goats in 2008, according to the Kentucky office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

"We're Kentucky Proud to be one of the leading goat-producing states," Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer said. "Our landscape is well suited to producing goats."

Kentucky reached a milestone in July 2008 when the Commonwealth's first official load of goat's milk was transported from Todd Harp's Bourbon County dairy to Susan Miller's Bluegrass Chevre cheese plant in Clark County for pasteurization and processing.

Commissioner Farmer called the collaboration "another example of Kentucky producers combining their resources to create a value-added Kentucky Proud product."

Harp received certification for a manufacturing grade goat dairy last spring after Miller's plant was designated the state's first certified goat dairy and cheese manufacturing facility in 2007.

A milestone in meat goat production also was reached in spring 2008 when producer-owned Bluegrass Lamb & Goat of Paint Lick was approved as a federally inspected meat processing facility by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Kentucky wines earn national acclaim

Journalist Joel Stein tasted wines from every state for a *Time* magazine article in August 2008. His selection from Kentucky was Celebration White by Equus Run Vineyards of Midway.

He liked it.

The Kentucky Proud wine was one of 12 to earn Stein's rating of "excellent." He didn't bestow it easily, dismissing several as "undrinkable." His affirmation was one more step for Kentucky up the ladder of winemaking states.

"People from all over are finding out what we already knew – Kentucky's grape and wine industry is back," Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer said. "Kentucky was one of the leading wine-producing states in the U.S. before Prohibition. Not long ago we didn't have any wineries; now we have 46. And we are gaining in quality as well as quantity."

Wines from Kentucky earned a total of 164 medals in a series of five in-state competitions in 2008. Kentucky wines also are making their mark in national and international competitions:

- The Tempest Reserve wine from Jean Farris Winery in Lexington earned a gold medal in May 2008 at the Critics Challenge, a competition of nearly 1,700 wines from around the world.
- Four Kentucky wineries earned gold medals at the 2008 Indy International Wine Competition in June – Jean Farris (2), Wight-Meyer Vineyard and Winery of Shepherdsville (2), Chrisman Mill of Nicholasville, and Equus Run – among more than 3,200 wines from 15 countries.

Tom Cottrell,
Extension enologist for



KENTUCKY
WINE



the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, organized the Kentucky competitions to raise awareness of the Commonwealth's wine industry. He used out-of-state judges "to alert the public to the quality of the wines and help Kentucky wineries recognize the wines that are most appreciated," Cottrell said.

The larger wine world sees Kentucky's wine industry as "in its infancy," Cottrell said. "I think we've turned the corner [in quality]. More and more of the wines are pretty good."

Cottrell has an upbeat assessment of the future of Kentucky's wine industry. "I've seen enough really nice wines to be confident that Kentucky will produce fine wines," he said. "They may not be the same string of varieties coming out of California or New York, but they will be good."

For more information on Kentucky wines, wineries and wine-related events, go to www.kentuckywine.com.

KDA's commitment to youth continues

Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer believes Kentucky agriculture's number one crop is our youth.

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture shows commitment to Kentucky's young people through supporting 4-H and FFA, sponsoring youth livestock shows, and teaching children agricultural science.

The KDA has contributed nearly a half-million dollars to Kentucky FFA and Kentucky 4-H since Commissioner Farmer took office in 2004. Even through budget cuts in 2008, KDA maintained its commitment to both organizations. More than 245,000 Kentuckians ages 9-19 participate in 4-H, while FFA is open to seventh- to 12th-grade students enrolled in public school agriculture courses.

Hundreds of young people show thousands of animals at livestock shows conducted annually throughout the state by the KDA, highlighted by three Kentucky Junior Livestock Expositions and the Kentucky State Fair. Exhibitors earn Kentucky

Ted Sloan



Dan Willoughby judges a goat show at the Kentucky Junior Livestock Expo in Bowling Green in July 2008.

Proud Points, and top scorers in each species are honored at a year-end banquet.

Two Mobile Science Activity Centers visit schools around the state. Each 42-foot trailer has 10 work stations where students apply scientific principles and processes to agricultural materials to make products like corn plastic, lip balm and ice cream.

For more information go to the www.kyagr.com Web site and click "Education" and "Farm & Home Safety."

Farm & Home Safety Program a model worth copying

Agriculture leaders from all over the South checked out some of the unique equipment in the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's Farm & Home Safety Program during a June 2008 regional conference in Lexington. Several returned home with plans to emulate the KDA program.

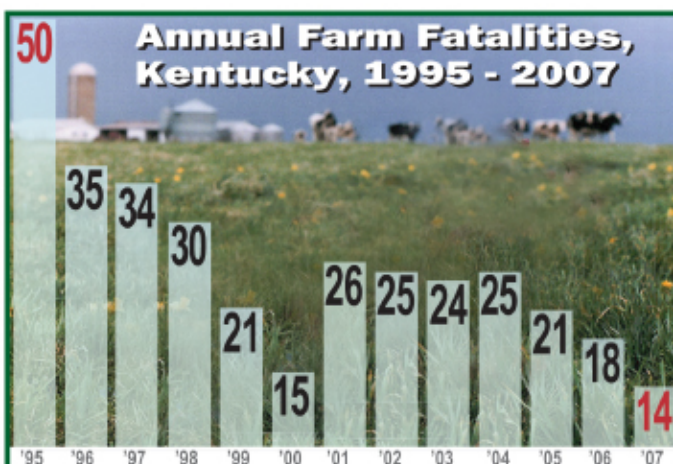
The Farm & Home Safety Program also was a

major point of interest at the Sunbelt Ag Expo in Moultrie, Ga., in October 2008. It is recognized as a national model among programs aiming to reduce farm fatalities and injuries. "Farm fatalities have gone from 50 in 1995 to 14 in 2007," Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer said, "but every time someone is injured or killed on the farm, we know there's more work to be done."

Program administrator Dale Dobson speaks to groups throughout Kentucky and stages rescues from mock farm equipment and ATV accidents using local emergency workers. Dobson can fulfill only 20 percent of the requests he receives for the popular program.

The program uses a one-of-a-kind rollover tractor simulator, a miniature grain bin and grain wagon. The program has expanded to include lawn mower and ATV safety.

For more information, go to www.kyagr.com and click "Education" and "Farm & Home Safety."



Who do I call about ... ?

- ...the Kentucky Proud marketing program?
Bill Clary, 564-4696, or
Donna Baker, 564-4983.
- ...joining Kentucky Proud?
Donna Baker, 564-4983.
- ...rights to use the Kentucky Proud logo?
Bill Clary, 564-4696, or
Donna Baker, 564-4983.
- ...the Kentucky Proud Restaurant Rewards program?
Angela Caporelli, 564-4983.
- ...marketing produce to restaurants and schools?
Kristen Branscum, 564-4983.
- ...the Kentucky Livestock and Grain Market News Information System?
Market Reports, toll free, (800) 327-6568.
- ...wholesale Kentucky-grown landscape plants?
Bill Holleran, 564-4983.
- ...finding a ginseng dealer?
Anna Lucio, 564-4983.
- ...horticulture cost-share programs?
Anna Lucio, 564-4983.
- ...help in marketing an agritourism destination?
Stephen P. Yates, 564-4983.
- ...Kentucky's grape and wine industry?
Stacia Alford, 564-4983.
- ...buying/selling hay, haylages, and forages online?
Hay/Forage Sales Directory, www.kyagr.com/buyky/corral/haylistingpara.asp
- ...buying/selling hay during a drought year?
Hay/Forage Testing hotline,
(800) 248-4628, toll-free.
- ...quality testing of hay, haylages, and forages for nutritional and market value?
Hay/Forage Testing hotline,
(800) 248-4628, toll-free.
- ...raising shrimp, catfish, tilapia, paddlefish, and other aquaculture?
Angela Caporelli, 564-4983.
- ...general questions regarding pesticides?
Steve Sims, 573-0411.
- ...starting, selling at, or improving a farmers' market?
Kristen Branscum, 564-4983.
- ...officially certifying a farm as "organic"?
Michael Fitzgerald, 564-4983.
- ...livestock shows or agricultural fairs?
Show and Fair Promotion, 564-4983.
- ...the Kentucky Proud Points Program for livestock exhibitors?
Show and Fair Promotion, 564-4983.
- ...an inaccurate scale used in Kentucky commerce?
Jason Glass or Tom Bloemer, 573-0282.
- ...grocery store price scanners charging incorrectly?
Tom Bloemer or
Leslie Hageman, 573-0282.
- ...inaccurate motor fuel pumps or bad-quality fuel at a service station?
Tom Bloemer or
Leslie Hageman, 573-0282.
- ...beekeeping assistance, information and education?
Phil Craft, state apiarist, 564-3956.
- ...booking a farm, home, ATV or lawn mower safety program for my organization?
Tina Garland, 564-4983.
- ...getting started in export markets?
Jonathan Van Balen, 564-4983.
- ...regulations and services for the equine industry?
Rusty Ford, 564-3956.
- ...selling calves in a CPH-45 sale?
Tim Dietrich, 564-4983.
- ...rules for bringing livestock into Kentucky?
State Veterinarian's Office, 564-3956.
- ...reporting an illegal sale of tobacco products to customers under 18?
Jo Carole Phillips, Teens and Tobacco Hotline, (800) 833-6289.
- ...licensing a retail or wholesale egg handling business?
Bobbie Butler, 573-0282.
- ...an amusement ride missing its inspection label?
Chad Halsey, 573-0282.
- ...earning a permit to operate an amusement ride or attraction?
Chad Halsey, 573-0282.
- ...licensing a retail motor fuel facility?
Leslie Hageman, 573-0282.
- ...licensing a limestone quarry?
Jason Glass, 573-0282.
- ...licensing a grain facility?
John Cook, 573-0282.
- ...licensing a tobacco warehouse or receiving station?
John Cook, 573-0282.
- ...registering a service agency or person that services meters and scales?
Jason Glass, 573-0282.
- ...scheduling calibration of test measures, provers or weights?
Jason Glass, 573-0282.
- ...mosquito spraying, or control of noxious weeds such as thistles, multi-flora roses, and cockleburrs?
Kevin Ferguson, (800) 205-6543, toll free.
- ...no-cost pickup and disposal of old, unused or banned farm pesticides?
Rinse/Return Program, (800) 205-6543, toll free.
- ...pesticide applicator testing dates?
Angela Wilhoite, 573-0282.
- ...pesticide applicator training and credits for continuing education?
Steve Sims or Dale Anderson, 573-0282.
- ...verifying the license or credentials of a pesticide firm?
Steve Sims or Dale Anderson, 573-0282.
- ...becoming licensed and certified in Turf & Agricultural Pest Control?
Dale Anderson, 573-0282.
- ...becoming licensed and certified in Structural Pest Control?
Steve Sims, 573-0282.
- ...a school visit by KDA's Mobile Science Activity Center?
Tina Garland, 564-4983.
- ...donating or selling a farm conservation easement?
Donna Baker, 564-4983.
- ...Rinse & Return pesticide container recycling?
Todd Garland, 573-0404.
- ...registering premises and livestock with the National Animal Identification System?
Dana Jenkins, 564-3956.
- ...receiving the *Kentucky Agricultural News* online ag news bulletin?
(888) 567-9589, toll free.

Phone numbers are Area Code 502.
800 and 888 numbers are toll free.

Most state e-mail addresses
follow the format
firstname.lastname@ky.gov.