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# leadership NEWS

VOLUME 4 NUMBER 5

OCTOBER, 1998

## Campaign heats up to defeat annual sessions

Kentucky Farm Bureau is conducting an informational campaign urging voters to defeat a proposed state constitutional amendment mandating annual legislative sessions.

Using a theme titled "More government costs us more money," Farm Bureau leaders are utilizing radio, print and billboard advertising, in addition to a locally oriented grass-roots get out the vote campaign, to defeat Amendment 1 on the Nov. 3 general election ballot.

Kentucky Farm Bureau President William R. Sprague, in announcing the start of his organization's effort, said Kentuckians have made it

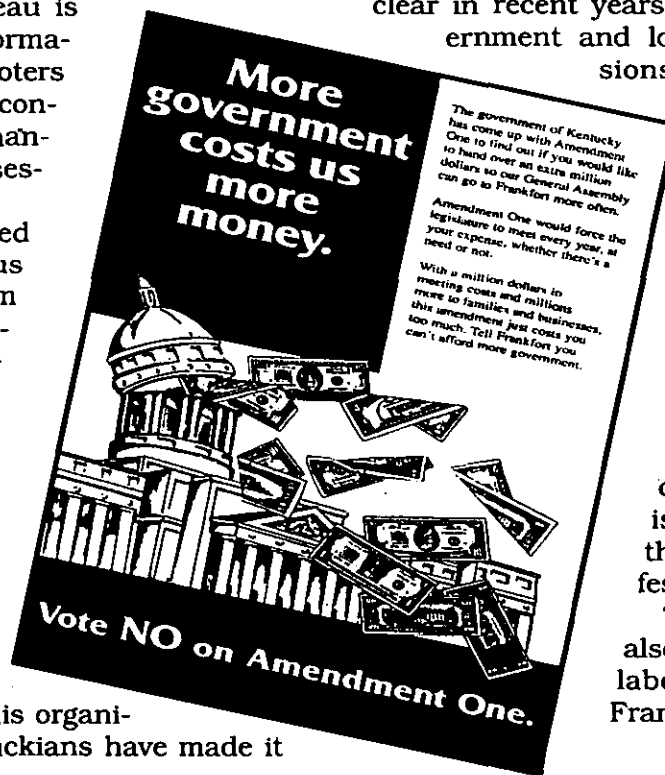
clear in recent years that they want smaller government and lower taxes. The annual sessions amendment, he noted, would move in the opposite direction.

"Legislative sessions cost taxpayers over \$40,000 a day in expenses, and millions more from the costs of the new laws and regulations are passed on to the private sector," Sprague stressed.

Sprague also noted concerns about moving from a citizen's legislature to a legislative body made up solely of those who are wealthy, or professional politicians.

"We need legislators who are also business people, farmers or laborers when they're not in Frankfort," he said. "With annual

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# Sessions campaign under way

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sessions, we are very concerned about losing that diversity of legislative membership."

Sprague also pointed out concerns about the effects of annual sessions on budget and policy issues. Our current biennial format forces state officials to look two years down the road for planning purposes, he said.

"Annual sessions would likely result in the state budget remaining open-ended, subject to continuous revision," Sprague said. "Those changes could easily be based on short-term political whim, and not the longer-term outlook that is needed."

Sprague said the Farm Bureau media campaign against Amendment 1 would be concentrated in the two weeks before the Nov. 3 election.

"We've committed to work hard to bring this issue before voters, in an election environment that is unusually congested with many important decisions to be made," Sprague said. "Farm Bureau policy speaks clearly on this issue.

Annual sessions of the legislature would cost us money, and our members have told us they don't want or need more government in Kentucky. We're confident that a majority of the voters will agree."

"Voice of Kentucky Agriculture"  
**DECISION**

A COMPLETE ELECTION DIRECTORY



## Directory copies available

A limited number of copies of Kentucky Farm Bureau's election guide, entitled "Decision '98", are available from the KFB office.

The eight page directory, which was mailed as part of last month's All Around Kentucky, lists candidates for the Nov. 3 election, and discusses voting records and key issues.

To obtain copies of the guide, contact Beth Wisman at the KFB office, 502-495-5105. Offer good while supplies last.

## leadership NEWS

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Third Dist. U.S.  
Rep. Anne Northup  
visited the state  
Farm Bureau  
office recently.

The occasion: a  
lunchtime issues  
briefing for area  
business leaders,  
sponsored by  
Greater Louisville  
Inc., the area  
chamber of commerce.



## Champion Quartet

Winners of Farm Bureau's Gospel Quartet Contest at the State Fair were the Childress Family from Madisonville. They pose here with KFB President Bill Sprague and Hopkins County FB Director C.J. Moore.



# Ag issues hanging in D.C.

Pressing Congressional issues affecting agriculture were being held up at month's end by political infighting over possible impeachment hearings dealing with President Clinton.

Among the key issues left hanging at printing deadline were fast-track, International Monetary Fund budget allocation, farmer relief measures and legislation to forestall future ag trade embargoes.

Farm Bureau has been working to push fast track, IMF funding and emergency farm aid over the past several weeks.

KFB President Bill Sprague joined hundreds of Farm Bureau leaders for a Washington D.C. fly-in effort last month to pressure Congress for action on the farm legislative agenda.

But disagreements between Republican leaders and their Democratic colleagues served to stall the issues and leave farmers uncertain if the needed export boosts and direct assistance would be provided before the planned adjournment of Congress in early October.



KFB President Bill Sprague with N.C. Rep. Bob Etheridge in Washington.

Fast-track trade negotiating authority seemed poised for quick action last month when a House bill was scheduled for a Sept. 21 vote. But that deadline passed without floor action.

On Sept. 25, however, the House killed fast track on a vote of 243-180, meaning that the issue would not be resurrected until next year, at the earliest.

A partisan dispute over emergency farm aid erupted, as

Democrats sought to increase marketing loans and extend their term, at a cost of \$7 billion.

That bill died in the Senate, and Republicans followed with a \$3.9 billion farm relief package that would pay for crop disaster losses, emergency livestock feed assistance and direct payments to offset loss of export markets.

Farm Bureau voiced general support for the GOP plan, but cautioned Congress that the relief measures should not be paid for at the expense of other agriculture programs.

On another front, Farm Bureau found much to like in a tax relief package passed by the House Sept. 26.

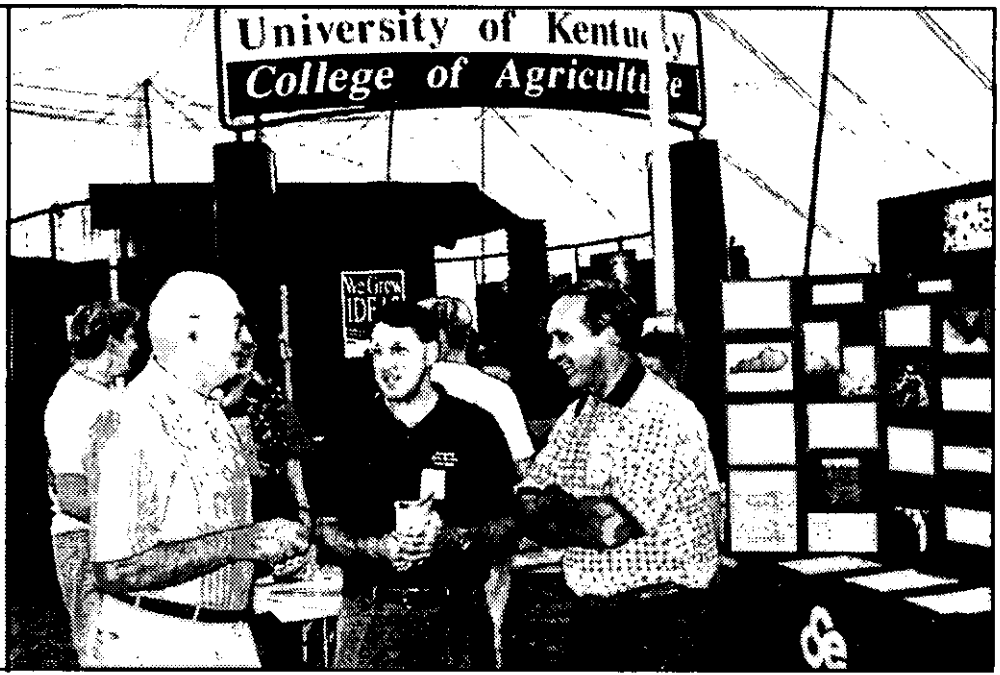
The measure would allow farmers to apply business losses to five previous years of tax returns, would increase and accelerate the estate tax exemption and speed up an exemption for self-funded health insurance premiums.

It would also make income averaging for farmers permanent, rather than allowing it to expire after 2000, as provided for in current law.

## Going back to school

*Farm Bureau Night at UK drew a number of ag leaders to the campus last month, as part of the Ag College's Alumni Roundup Week.*

*Here Bill King, Leon Mayo and Fred Herald chat among displays featuring UK's ag programs and ag-related career opportunities.*



# Bacon prices surge in FB survey

Consumers paid slightly more at the grocery store checkout line during the third quarter of 1998, according to the American Farm Bureau Marketbasket Survey. The average price of selected grocery items increased 22 cents from the year's second quarter.

The 16 selected items on the survey cost \$32.40, up from the second quarter's \$32.18 average. It marks the second consecutive increase in the average price. It also reflects a third-quarter trend.

Since AFBF began the Marketbasket Survey in 1989, increases have been the norm during the third quarter in all but two surveys.

"The overall price increase is pretty much in line with the rate of inflation, which is around 2.5 to 3 percent," said Terry Francl, a senior economist with the American Farm Bureau Federation. "And that rate remains very low."

A one-pound package of bacon increased 17 cents to \$2.30, representing the largest increase on the survey. Francl says the retail

bacon figures certainly don't reflect the price hog producers are receiving for their product.

He said, however, that the increase in price could reflect a seasonal demand for bacon, which tends to increase during the summer months. Americans enjoy bacon on such items as hamburgers and bacon-lettuce-and-tomato sandwiches.

Of the 16 items on the survey, eight increased in price. In addition to the bacon prices, a 32-ounce jar of mayonnaise increased 15 cents to \$2.64. Other increases included corn oil, \$2.60 per 32-ounce jar, up 8 cents; sirloin tip, \$2.69 per pound, up 5 cents; eggs, 96 cents per dozen, up 4 cents; potatoes, \$1.58 per 5-pound bag, up 3 cents; whole fryers, 98 cents per pound, up 2 cents; and ground chuck, \$1.66 per pound, up 1 cent.

While half of the items on the survey increased in price, Francl wonders why the retail numbers aren't consistent with prices farmers and ranchers are receiving for their products. "The real question is whether or not these

price signals, as reflected in low farm prices, are going to reach the consumers, or whether the processors and retailers are simply going to extract a higher margin," said Francl.

Six items on the survey increased in price, with a 5-pound bag of flour and a pound of pork chops representing the largest decreases. The price of flour dropped 9 cents to \$1.38 while pork chops fell 9 cents to \$2.94. Other decreases included white bread, \$1.17 per 20-ounce loaf, down 4 cents; whole milk, \$2.52 per gallon, down 3 cents; cheddar cheese, \$3.06 per pound, down 3 cents; and apples, 94 cents per pound, down 2 cents.

Volunteer shoppers from 35 states including Kentucky participated in this latest survey in early September. The average total price of this quarter is only \$3.90 higher than the \$28.50 average price of the inaugural survey conducted during the first quarter of 1989. That averages into just a 40-cent increase in prices per year over a nine-year span.

# Growth is '98 convention theme

Under the theme "A Good Thing Growing," Farm Bureau members plan to converge on Louisville in December to celebrate a monumental membership milestone and set plans for an active 1999 agenda.

KFB officials expect the organization to enlist its 400,000th member family later this month, which would make us just the second state to achieve that level.

Along with the growth theme, convention planners have set a busy 4-day schedule of conferences, youth events and policy debate.

The convention will be held at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville, Dec. 9-12.

Retiring U.S. Sen. Wendell Ford is on tap to keynote a Dec. 11 morning program, joining Kentucky Farm Bureau President Bill Sprague who will make his annual address to convention delegates.

Sen. Mitch McConnell will also play a prominent role in the meeting, appearing at the Dec. 12 Public Affairs Breakfast.

Special interest conferences are a big draw for the annual meeting. Farmers flock to attend discussions on tobacco, grains, livestock, and dairy enterprises, plus conferences on a new Farm Bureau Bank, insurance issues, leadership development and natural resources.

The conferences dominate the Thursday program, Dec. 10.

Youth and young farmer events are also popular. The Outstanding Youth Contest serves as the state finals for top student achievers, vying for valuable college scholarships and other prizes. That contest will be on the Thursday evening program.

On Friday, Dec. 11, youthful performers take over the nighttime stage, performing musical and dance routines for the convention crowd, as part of the Variety Showcase.

Young farmers, generally those 35 and under, will be paying close attention to the Discussion Meet, and the Outstanding Young Farm Family contest. Both

events will select Kentucky representatives in national contests, to be held in January in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Women's activities also dot the busy agenda. County women's chairs will be recognized at a Friday luncheon and gold star awards program. Earlier, a Ladies Tea will offer stylish delicacies in a spectacular setting, the 24th-floor Flagship Room of the Galt House Tower, overlooking the Ohio River docking area.

Policy debate will hold the focus for voting delegates on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Resolutions covering hundreds of policy topics will be debated and voted on, as the culmination of the policy development process looking ahead to the 1999 program year.

Delegates will also select members of the KFB Board of Directors and the Resolutions Committee. Part of the Saturday schedule also includes the election of president, and first and second vice presidents for the coming year.

Announcing

## The Farm Bureau Holiday Special

**FREE ROOMS!\***

December & January are gift giving times, so we have a gift for you... spend the holidays in Washington! Stay with us for one night at the low Farm Bureau Rate & we'll give you the second consecutive night FREE!\*



**\*Holiday Inn**  
CAPITOL  
550 C St. SW  
Washington, DC 20024

Now is the time to treat yourself and your family to the trip to DC you've always talked about! With our great location - one block from the National Air and Space Museum and walking distance to most of the sights of the city - Holiday Inn Capitol is the perfect place to stay when vacationing! And now it's even more affordable than ever!

Give your family a gift they will remember long after the holidays are over... give them a trip to DC!

**Call Today!**  
**(202) 479-4000**

Please mention this ad to get your **FREE second night!**  
\*Offer valid 12/1/98 - 1/31/99 only. Based on availability. Not valid with other offers.



**FREE PARKING BONUS!!!**

Parking is usually \$10 per day, but when you present this ad at check-in, your parking is **FREE!** Valid only with the Farm Bureau Holiday Special\*

# Family farm definition sought

The inaugural meeting of Kentucky's new Commission on Family Farms was a defining moment.

Held at the Hardin County Extension office in Elizabethtown, the meeting featured attempts by several commission members and guests to define what is the most important quality of a family farm.

Calloway Countian Sharon Furches urged the group, appointed by Gov. Paul Patton, to avoid the temptation to define family farms in terms of size.

"I have high hopes for this group, but I really would hate for our efforts to be sidetracked by pitting small farms against large farms," Furches noted.

"Family farms have to do with family management and family control, whether it involves just a few acres or thousands of acres."

Kentucky Farm Bureau President Bill Sprague also touched on the theme of size, when he told commission members that perception is often at odds with reality among today's

non-farm public.

There's a mythical image, Sprague said, of a farm as a "pastoral playground, where a couple of cows graze lazily in the meadow, and Ma and Pa sit on the porch waving to passers-by."

Sprague challenged the group to bridge the reality gap that exists about farming. He noted that today's farms involve larger acreages than was the case 30 or 40 years ago, with larger livestock herds and growing reliance on industrial-style technology to make a profit in a very competitive market environment.

"Together, maybe this commission and Farm Bureau can craft the right message to win acceptance for modern agriculture among government officials and our urban customers," Sprague said.

Commission member Al Pedigo, of Scottsville, said the group should focus on ways to help families continue to farm, through marketing improvements, research and collective problem-solving.

"I believe the farming environment is the best place to raise a family, and I want to see it preserved for my kids and their generation," Pedigo said.

Sprague noted that the commission has a "unique and timely opportunity to prime the pump for Kentucky's agricultural growth in the 21st Century."

He pointed out:

\*Since the group was appointed by Gov. Patton, they will have his ear when they transmit their findings

\*The state budget is currently in surplus, offering strong prospects for new funding of ag initiatives

\*Current weakness in commodity prices and political uncertainties facing tobacco lend unusual urgency to the undertaking

\*Additional media attention being focused on agriculture in Kentucky can give the commission's eventual recommendations the political momentum needed to restore growth to the farming industry.



From left: Family Farms Commission members John Medley, Al Pedigo, Paul Hornback, Janet Johnson, Sharon Furches and Chris Kummer. At back are Sharon Burton and Bill Sprague.

## Harlan County achievers

The Harlan County Farm Bureau had the distinction of being first in its district to make '98 membership quota. From left are: Joanne Miniard, Mary Britt Milwee, John Tomlinson, Ginny Young, Trish Cornett, Corinne Farley, John Cody and Judy Jones.



# Treaty could disrupt agriculture

The Clinton administration's climate change proposal will restrict farming practices, disrupt livestock and crop production and increase farm energy costs, according to the American Farm Bureau.

"The bottom line is that we must have more information and valid, peer-reviewed scientific research, before we make major policy decisions that will define the very structure of U.S. agriculture in the future," said AFBF President Dean Kleckner.

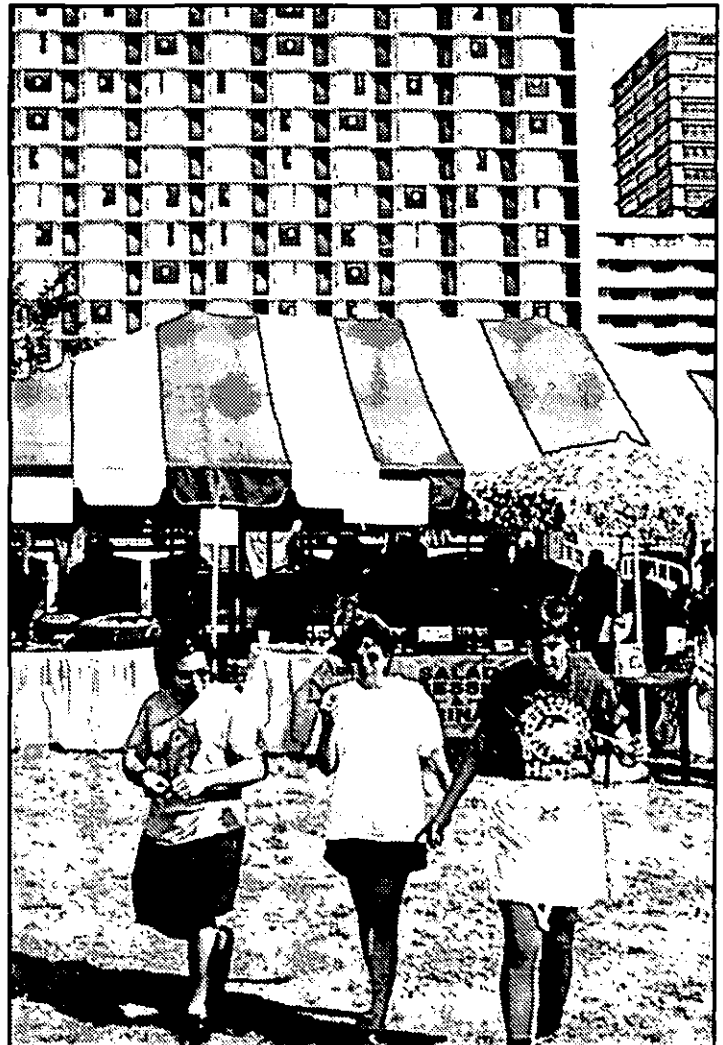
He told a House oversight committee that farmers are already reducing greenhouse emissions and attempting to cut costly energy use but added, "we are concerned that the administration's climate change policy poses some very serious threats to our ability to produce and our ability to stay in farming."

Kleckner said, "For agriculture, we could see new taxes on fuel and fertilizer, forced mileage requirements for light trucks and other motor vehicles, controls on planting, cultivation and harvesting practices, and limits on the number of livestock per acre."

Kleckner posed several questions to the committee, asking: "What happens if these type of regulations interfere with farm management plans which have been designed to reduce soil erosion? What happens if prescriptive cropping practices designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions are not compatible with crop rotations or integrated pest management programs? These are legitimate questions - we need some answers."

He said fuel and energy cost increases resulting from the Kyoto agreement could deal farmers an especially heavy blow. An increase of 50 percent or more is possible. The Commerce Department has agreed that capping carbon dioxide emissions at 1990 levels could require the equivalent of a 25-

cent per gallon gas tax. Even at these levels, it would impose a big hardship on farm families.



The downtown Louisville skyline served as backdrop for the annual Harvest Festival, featuring local chefs preparing locally produced food items as samplers. A similar event was held in Lexington.



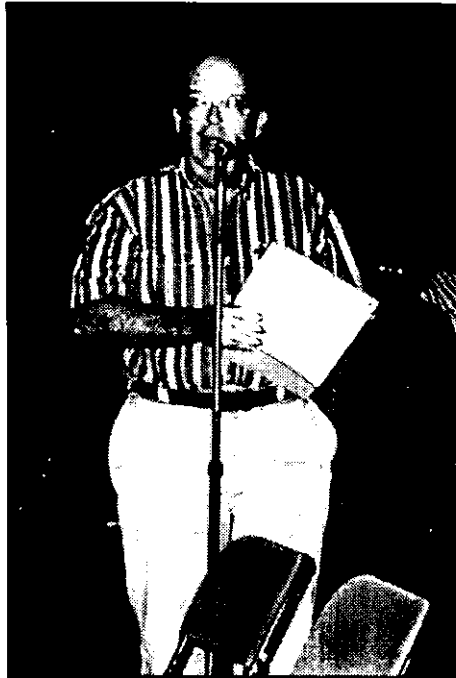
# Regs are threat to swine farms

**A** liability provision in proposed hog farm regulations could accelerate a decline in swine production in Kentucky and drive the few remaining hog farms out of business, according to Kentucky Farm Bureau President Bill Sprague.

The provision in question would institute a joint liability requirement for swine processors who contract with farmers to grow the animals. Under the plan, the processors would have to guarantee, under threat of financial penalty, that farmers comply with all environmental requirements.

Sprague said such a mandate would drive swine contractors out of Kentucky, eliminating an important financial option for the state's struggling swine producers. He made the comment at a public hearing on new swine regulations, held Sept. 21 at Lake Barkley State Park.

It was the fifth public hearing on hog farm regulations held by the Kentucky Cabinet for Natural



*Dennis Liptrap testifies at the Lake Barkley hearing.*

Resources and Environmental Protection over the past year.

Sprague reiterated Farm Bureau's support of balanced statewide swine farm regulations, but expressed disappointment that the cabinet "remains inflexi-

ble" on developing a regulatory package that protects the environment but also allows for growth in the swine industry.

Kentucky farmers want to protect the environment, Sprague told the hearing, but they need regulators to recognize that changing market conditions are forcing swine operations to produce their animals in larger units.

This expansion trend has prompted public concern about odor and pollution problems, but Sprague said that responsibly managed swine operations "are not the environmental hazards some people fear them to be."

The joint liability mandate, he charged, has more to do with dictating market structure for Kentucky's animal agriculture industry than it does with protecting the environment.

"Some people seem to dislike the idea of farming under contract," he noted. But he cautioned the environmental agency from attempting to dictate agricultural policy for the state.

Under a shared liability arrangement, "the economic advantages for both sides" disappear, Sprague said. Companies which are forced to assume liability for contract operations "might choose to reduce their risk by simply buying out the small producers," thereby driving families off the farm.

Sprague said he hopes the cabinet will work with Farm Bureau and other producer groups to amend the new regs. A cooperative approach would help assure the public that the environment is being protected, while allowing Kentucky farmers continued economic viability and growth, he said.

## '99 LEAD aps sought

**N**ominations are now being accepted for the 1999 class for Farm Bureau's new LEAD program, officially called Leadership Enhancement for Agricultural Development.

The leadership training program was initiated this year, and a class of nine will graduate in December.

The 1999 class will be introduced in December at the Kentucky Farm Bureau convention. A schedule of seven three-day sessions has been set for next year running from January through December.

Described as "a one-year intensive learning experience which will prepare future agricultural leaders for tomorrow's challenges," the LEAD program is open to Farm Bureau members age 25 to 40.

A new brochure is available in county Farm Bureau offices for those wishing to make application to the LEAD program.

Completed applications and supporting materials, along with a \$50 deposit, are due in the KFB office Nov. 2.

Cost of the LEAD program is \$250 per participant.

# Grant to aid MSU waste test

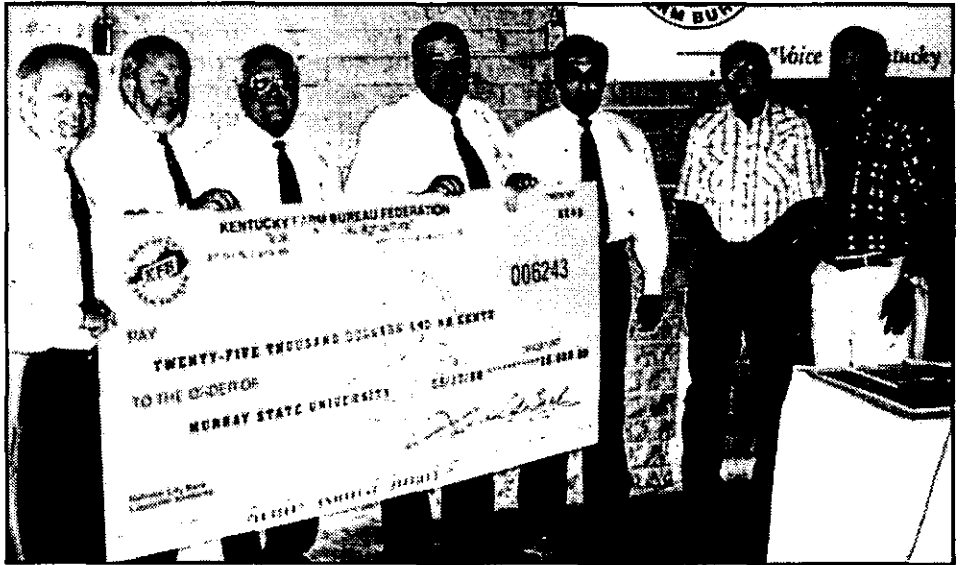
This facsimile of a \$25,000 check, along with the real thing, were presented to Murray State University officials recently.

The presentation was made at an animal ag issues briefing conducted by Kentucky Farm Bureau, at Lake Barkley State Park.

The \$25,000 grant from Farm Bureau will help offset the cost of a waste pasteurization project to be conducted on the MSU farm.

That project hopes to test the effectiveness of a biofermentation process that, in a matter of days, reportedly converts organic waste, including manure, into an odorless, pasteurized material suitable for use as fertilizer or mulch.

The process is seen as a possi-



ble solution to problems with storage and disposal of animal waste by livestock producers.

Shown here at the presentation are: Buddy Buckingham,

Sen. Joey Pendleton, Bill Sprague, Sam Moore, David Beck, Jim Davis and Tony Brannon.

# Sanctions hurt farm trade

The United States must begin the process of removing existing unilateral sanctions and prevent future trade sanctions, the Farm Bureau reminded a Senate task force on economic sanctions.

"As the leader in world trade, the United States has an unprecedented opportunity to promote its values throughout the world by peaceful engagement," said William Sprague, who is president of the Kentucky Farm Bureau.

"Reaching out through engagement and trade, not withdrawing behind sanctions or embargoes, is the best way to achieve positive change."

Sprague called for legislation that will help prevent future useless embargoes by requiring a reasonable evaluation of the consequences of imposing unilateral sanctions before they are imposed.

"It has been well documented

that unilateral trade sanctions are sanctions against U.S. exports and destroy our reputation as reliable suppliers," the farm leader declared.

Farm Bureau strongly opposes all artificial trade constraints such as unilateral sanctions. Sprague said, "We believe that opening trading systems around the world and engagement through trade are the most effective means of reaching international harmony and social and economic stability."

Unilateral sanctions have become the weapon of the moment to address actions by trading partners when the U.S. disagrees with some action they take. Farm Bureau believes former President Ronald Reagan had the right approach when he said, "The freer the flow of world trade, the stronger the tides of human progress and peace among nations."

Recent actions by India and Pakistan indicated to the U.S. that they were not concerned whether or not we applied sanctions, Sprague noted. "When we impose sanctions on our customers, our competitors are standing by to take over our markets.

"Today, our customers can go elsewhere for their food and fiber. Markets were not easy to develop and are even more difficult to win back when our customers see the United States as an unreliable supplier," Sprague asserted.

"The opportunities for peaceful engagement and the ability to influence our neighbors through trade are greater than ever before and must be safeguarded from unilateral sanctions that destroy these opportunities," Sprague said. "Farm Bureau is dedicated to more open trading systems around the world - not more sanctions or embargoes."

# Market information

## Marketing loans boosting returns

Today's low grain and soybean prices have made the 1996 Farm Law's marketing loan program a necessary part of your marketing decision.

Producers who take out a CCC loan have the option of repaying the loan at the posted county price (PCP). When the PCP is below the county loan rate, the difference is called a marketing loan gain.

Producers eligible to obtain a loan but agree to forgo the loan can instead receive a loan deficiency payment (LDP). The LDP is equal to the amount the county loan rate exceeds the posted county price.

The PCP is set each morning based on the previous day's market price activity. Therefore the LDP changes daily Monday through Friday.

The PCP is determined by preset "differentials" for each county which are subtracted from two fixed terminal prices. The gulf export price is one terminal price used for all counties. Others for Kentucky include Memphis, Evansville and Cincinnati for corn PCPs.

The most important thing to remember about collecting an LDP is that you must maintain "beneficial interest" in your crop to be eligible. Contact your FSA office to understand the rules determining beneficial interest.

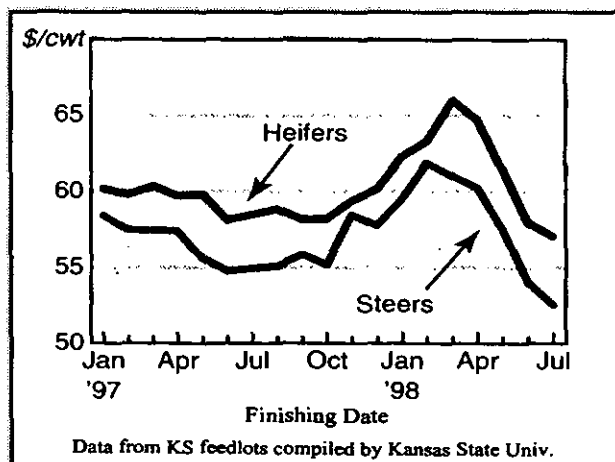
Once you've sold the crop it's too late to collect the LDP which was running 30-40 cents/bushel for corn and 40-50 cents/bushel for soybeans in late September.

The deadline for getting the CCC loan or LDP is May 31, 1999 for corn and soybeans and March 31, 1999 for small grains.

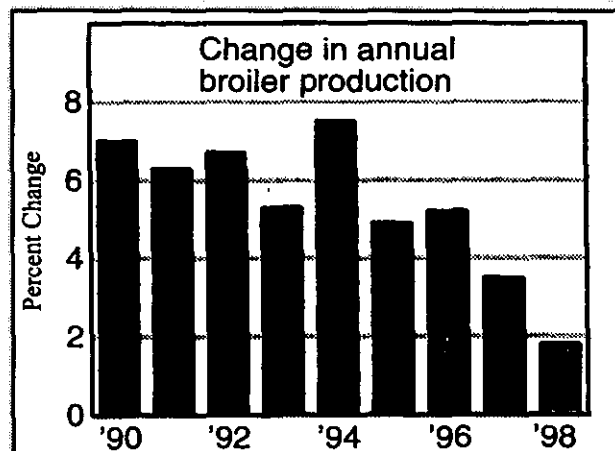
There are several marketing strategies revolving around the LDP. The maximum LDP will occur when market prices are at their lowest, usually in the fall. However, once you take the LDP, you may need to sell your crop for cash flow purposes. That could have income tax consequences.

If you expect the market to go higher in 1999, you could purchase commodity futures or options to replace the cash sale. However, you should be knowledgeable of the costs and risks associated with this marketing tool.

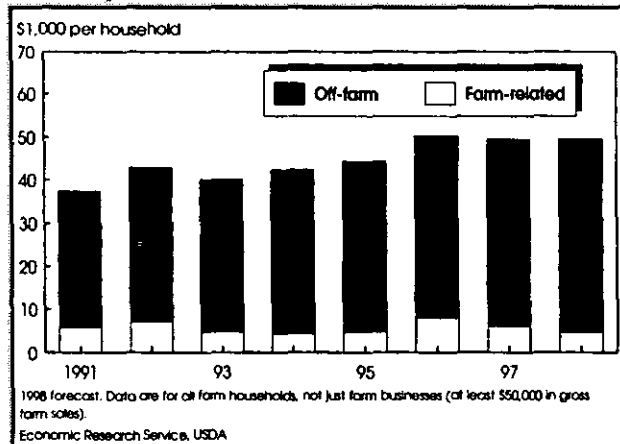
## Cost of Grain at Kansas Feedlots



## Broiler Expansion Keeps Slowing



## Rising Off-farm Income Helps Maintain Average Farm Household Income



## Women's forum draws group from Farm Bureau

"In the Interest of Women - - A Forum for the Women of Kentucky", sponsored by Toyota Manufacturing, Kentucky, Inc., was held on Wednesday, September 23 at the Galt House in Louisville. Attending from Kentucky Farm Bureau were (pictured from left): Sue Deibel, Rebeckah Freeman, Sally Bridgewater, Faye Lowe, Mary Strange, Carol Finney, Patty Blankenship, Pam Chappell, Beth Wisman and Terry Gilbert.



# Agribusiness goes center stage

The Louisville area's top agribusiness will be recognized at the Nov. 13 Farm-City Luncheon, set for the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center.

The luncheon is also the venue for one of agriculture's most unique events, the Wing Tip Rodeo. Farm Bureau President Bill Sprague will head up a group

of farm team ropers that will take on some city-style lasso artists at the event.

Winning team captain will claim custody of a traveling horse collar trophy, which signifies roping superiority for the ensuing year.

Purpose for the lunch, which annually draws several hundred

to the fairgrounds, is to pull agriculture and urban business interests closer together.

The event is conducted during the two-week run of the annual North American International Livestock Exposition, the nation's largest all-breed livestock show.

It is also a part of an Ag Summit program, which is planned for Nov. 12 and 13 at the fairgrounds.

Top state and national political and ag officials are invited to discuss current issues and trends with farmers and agribusiness representatives.

Chief sponsor of the Farm-City luncheon, and the agribusiness award program is Greater Louisville Inc., formerly the Louisville Area Chamber of Commerce.

The agribusiness award is granted on the basis of financial growth, employee relations, contribution to the area's agribusiness economy and community involvement.

## Farm Bureau Insurance aids Hall of Fame

Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance helped sponsor the 1998 Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame golf outing and banquet. These events are held each year to provide financial support to Kosair Charities.

This is the ninth consecutive year Kentucky Farm Bureau has been the corporate sponsor.

During the banquet, eight of Kentucky's famous sports personalities were inducted into the Kentucky Athletic Hall of

Fame. This year's recipients included the oldest man to play in the NFL, George Blanda; journalist and Kentucky Derby authority, Jim Bolus; the owners of the Kentucky Colonels and professional sports advocates, John Y. Brown and Ellie Brown Moore; golf pro, Larry Gilbert; football pro, Frank Minnifield; retired University of Louisville athletic director, Bill Olsen; tennis pro, Susan Sloane-Lundy; and public address announcer, John Tong.

# Stopping fires in the home

This time of year, the fall season, is traditionally National Fire Prevention Week. It is a time to think about home fire safety, escape planning and the importance of smoke detectors, and to check the detector and replace the battery to be sure it works.

One cause of many home fires and of residential fire deaths in this country is fires in mattresses and bedding. According to a report from the Consumer Product Safety Commission, mattresses or bedding were the first item ignited in an estimated 31,300 residential fires nationwide in a recent year.

As a result of these fires, an estimated 610 people died, 3,540 were injured, and \$385.2 million in property losses occurred. These figures represent about 7 percent of all residential fires and about 16 percent of all deaths and injuries in residential fires.

Most mattress and bedding fires are ignited by open-flame products, such as cigarette lighters and matches, or smoking materials (primarily cigarettes).

Since 1980, the relative rankings of the ignition sources of mattress and bedding fires have changed. In 1980, smoking materials were the major source of

## WORDS of WELLNESS

ignition of these fires, but since 1989, open-flame products have become the major source.

Mattress and bedding fires ignited by smoking materials, however, cause a larger number of deaths, as often the smoker/victim is asleep when the fire breaks out.

Other causes of mattress and bedding fires include arcing or overheating of electrical equipment, or hot objects, such as lamps or heaters (particularly electric space heaters), that were too close to the mattress or bedding.

Young children are often involved in starting these fires and are the primary victims. A typical scenario occurs when a child plays with fire, which ignites the mattress or bedding.

The child then often hides, making the rescue more difficult

and delaying efforts to extinguish the fire.

Child play accounted for about 9,200 open-flame fires associated with mattresses or bedding in a recent year. These fires resulted in about 1,250 injuries and 180 deaths, or about 95 percent of the deaths from open-flame mattress and bedding fires.

About two-thirds of open-flame deaths were children under 5.

Since 1973, all mattresses and mattress pads manufactured for sale must comply with the CPSC flammability standard for these products.

This standard was enacted to reduce the ignition of mattresses by cigarettes. But mattress and bedding fires from cigarettes continue to occur. One reason is that some mattresses manufactured before the standard are still in use.

A special study of mattress and bedding fires was conducted recently. CPSC investigators worked with local fire departments to determine which material first ignited in a fire, the mattress or the bedding.

The study indicated that fire deaths involving cigarette ignition of mattresses have decreased by an estimated 40 percent. In contrast, fire deaths in residential fires of all causes decreased by about 30 percent over this period.

## Getting ready for winter

As you prepare your home for the coming winter season, take a few minutes to think about the safety of the products you use in your home to make things comfortable during the winter.

- Having your furnace checked by a trained furnace technician.

- Install a carbon monoxide detector in your home and pay attention if it sounds an alarm.

- If you use an electric space heater to take the chill off a cold spot in your home, be sure that the space heater is not placed in the traffic patterns of the room.

- If you would like additional information about space heaters or carbon monoxide detectors, call the Consumer Product Safety Commission at 1-800-638-2772.

## NATIONAL CONVENTION

# Albuquerque in January

The unique Southwestern desert country sights and tastes are part of the draw for Kentuckians who want to attend this year's American Farm Bureau convention.

The meeting is set for Jan. 10-14 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and a sizeable delegation of Kentucky Farm Bureau leaders is expected to be on hand.

Environmental and economic issues are sure bets to dominate the business side of the convention, while such cultural offerings as Indian-inspired art galleries, southwestern cuisine and Spanish architecture fill in the leisure time for attendees.

Kentucky's delegation will be housed at the Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, a short shuttle bus ride from the main convention headquarters, and near the airport and the historic Old Town district.

Topping the preliminary speaker list is Herman Cain, chairman of the board for

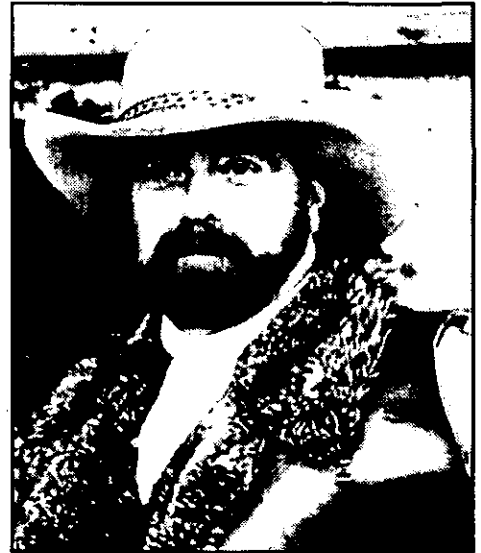


**CAIN**

Godfather's Pizza and president and CEO of the National Restaurant Association.

Cain was a member of the Economic Growth and Tax Reform Commission in 1996, alongside AFBF President Dean Kleckner.

Kleckner said of Cain: "He



**MURPHEY**

serves as an inspiration to many people in this country. A self-made man, Herman wasn't afraid to take risks in his career to learn how to become one of the nation's most successful businessmen.

"I'm sure Farm Bureau members will appreciate his unique insight," Kleckner added.

A big-name country music performer from the '70's and '80's, Michael Martin Murphey, will entertain the convention crowd.

Kentuckians who travel to Albuquerque will be hosted in style by Farm Bureau. Breakfasts will be provided Monday through Thursday for the group, hosted by Farm Bureau companies.

Airfare for the convention has been booked on Southwest Airlines from Louisville to Albuquerque. Cost of the ticket plus shuttle service is \$375 round trip.

Room cost at the Radisson is \$90.87.

Blazing Trails for Agriculture is the theme for the AFBF annual meeting.

## Ostrich is export

Kentucky's newest international ag export is ostrich and Tom Corbett of Lebanon is the exporter.

He recently shipped 40 mature ostriches and about 10 chicks to South Korea. Corbett has a flock of about 250. He says exporting is complicated and expensive, but even in today's soft market it was profitable.

"The bird market is actually in decline quite a bit here in Kentucky, but I priced them where I could make a good profit," Corbett said.

The buyers paid for inspection fees, veterinarian charges and

transportation. He says land in Korea is at a premium; and is one reason they picked ostrich.

"They could take these birds and put a trio which is two hens and a male on about a half acre of land and they can produce off of that trio about 80," he described.

That's 80 offspring per year. He says the birds are low maintenance, and in addition to meat the birds provide several valuable by-products.

Indications are the Koreans will buy up to a thousand of the birds. Corbett is already getting another group ready for shipment this fall.

## Simpson County FB honored

Simpson County Farm Bureau was the first county Farm Bureau in its district to reach membership quota in 1998. Pictured, left to right are: Mike Dearman, Robin Eaton, Stephen Mayes, Shirley Brown, Dennis Link, Tracy Keen and James McGee.



## Claims against AT&T boosted

In a landmark legal opinion, a judge has cleared the way for a national class-action lawsuit against AT&T on behalf of landowners.

Nationwide certification of the lawsuit, which allows aggrieved landowners from across the nation to seek damages, represents "real progress in an effort to win justice for rural landowners whose property has been used without their permission," according to the American Farm Bureau.

In what is believed to be the first nationwide certification of a class-action lawsuit involving issues of trespass and misuse of land, Hamilton County (Ind.) Superior Court Judge Steven R. Nation ruled on Aug. 21 that the lawsuit, *Hinshaw vs. AT&T*, could be national in scope.

In his order, the judge decreed that the case may proceed on behalf of "all owners of land in the United States that is or was subject to an easement for a limited purpose held by a railroad or pipeline or other utility company on which AT&T has entered to install or maintain a fiber optic or other telecommunications cable without obtaining the consent of the owner of the land."

"For too long, the true owners

of land used for railroad easements - often adjacent farmers and ranchers - have effectively had their land wrongfully taken or used for other purposes," said AFBF President Dean Kleckner. "Land has improperly been used for profit, often without the knowledge or permission of the true landowner.

"The certification of this lawsuit should send a clear signal that right of way easements are often not the railroads' to sell or lease, and whoever deals with railroads on such matters should fully investigate the legality of the transaction.

"There often is a true individual landowner who must be approached for permission and appropriately compensated. In America, you simply can't sell, use or take something that doesn't belong to you."

The *Hinshaw* case represents the first time a nationwide class has been certified on behalf of landowners to establish their rights on right-of-way land that has been misused by railroads or utilities, according to Washington, D.C. attorney Nels Ackerson, class counsel in the matter.

"The certification of this nationwide class holds promise

for all landowners whose rights are being eroded by powerful interests, both private and public," Ackerson said.

"In his ruling, Judge Nation described in detail a substantial body of the evidence we have amassed concerning AT&T's practices. From its own documents, cited by the judge, it appears that AT&T knew its right to occupy the right-of-way land was precarious, far from sound and tenuous."

In a 44-page opinion, Judge Nation ordered a nationwide adjudication of the claims that "AT&T installed and is operating a network of thousands of miles of fiber optic or other telecommunications cable through land that belong to" members of the class-action suit.

The judge's action also cited and cleared the way for a fair hearing on landowner allegations that "AT&T knowingly trespassed on and occupied (their) land, installed its cables, posted threatening signs and adopted a continuous pattern of surveillance and trespass on the Class members' land, without even attempting to identify the landowners, much less obtain their consent."

# Harvester was the trick

For Robert Burba's three acres of burley tobacco in Larue County his new Four Star mechanical harvester has been just the ticket.

"Dad's 72 and I'm 51 and using that tomahawk all day, well was really hard on both of our backs," Burba said. "We found that the harvester, that's the main thing that it saves on is all that bending, you know when you're cutting and picking up your sticks. That part really helped us."

Burba participated in the Farm Income Improvement Foundation program to assist burley growers in meeting production quotas. He qualified for a \$1,500 grant.

## Stocks outdo commodities this year

Even with recent corrections on Wall Street, stock prices are still substantially higher than they were a couple of years ago.

Compare that to farm prices. Commodities are bringing 20 to 40 percent less than a year ago. Ed McQueen, director of market information for Kentucky Farm Bureau, says stockholders, especially those investing for retirement, have time to let prices recover. Farmers don't enjoy that luxury.

"The farmer's producing a crop of grains or production of live-stock or hogs," McQueen explained. "There's a production cycle and he's got to sell those on an ongoing basis to cash flow his operation. So he doesn't have time to wait for that market to recover."

McQueen blames the decline on overproduction worldwide and a drop in demand caused by the Asian economic crisis.


"The only problem that I see is that it's a little slower than two good guys that can really cut tobacco. But for two older gentlemen like Dad and myself, it's worked out real well," Burba said.

With the 'Four Star' harvester, Burba doesn't have to worry about additional labor. He says the harvester would work better with three people on board, increasing efficiency by perhaps 30% over a two-person crew.




Betty Barrick was honored when she retired from 30 years service as Barren County women's chair by county FB president Brad Bailey.

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# Holiday shopping begins with fruit

Kentucky Farm Bureau members can now check prices on this year's Florida citrus and nut products, and that may signal the start of Christmas shopping season.

The juice, fruit and nut items have become a holiday-season staple for many Kentuckians, who look forward to receipt of the ordering information each fall.

Navel oranges are priced at \$12.70 per case this year, and the smaller juice oranges will cost \$12.20. A case of frozen orange juice concentrate is marked at \$32.20.

Orders of the products must be received by County Farm Bureau offices by the end of October. Most deliveries will be scheduled in early to mid-December.

As always, the products will be trucked to Kentucky, and the fruit will be fresh off the tree. More than 20 truckloads of the items are expected to be delivered to Kentucky this year.

## FLORIDA CITRUS FRUIT PROGRAM PRICE LIST

Box Navel Oranges, 4/5 Bushel	\$12.70
Box Juice Oranges, 4/5 Bushel	\$12.20
Box Red Grapefruit, 4/5 Bushel	\$11.20
Box Tangelos, 4/5 Bushel	\$12.95
Box "Sunburst" Tangerines, 2/5 Bushel	\$11.10
Case HiDensity Orange Juice Concentrate, 24/12 Oz. Cans	\$32.20
Case HiDensity Grapefruit Juice Concentrate, 12/12 Oz. Cans	\$16.25
Case Lemonade Concentrate, 24/12 Oz. Cans	\$15.15
Case Bluebird Grapefruit Juice, Ready to Drink, 48/6 Oz. Cans	\$14.20
Case Southern Fried Skinless Peanuts, 12/20 Oz. Cans	\$31.70
Case Southern Fried Skinless Peanuts, 6/4 Lb. Cans	\$40.85
Case Honey Krunch Peanuts, 12/11 Oz. Cans	\$24.90
Case Redskin Southern Fried Peanuts, 12/20 Oz. Cans	\$30.40
Case No-Salt Dry Roast Peanuts, 12/16 Oz. Jars	\$23.60
Case Selected Shelled Pecan Halves, 12/1 Lb. Pkgs.	\$60.20
Case Roasted Pecans, 12/9 Oz. Cans	\$40.00
Case Pure Peanut Cooking Oil, 8/64 Oz. Jugs	\$37.20
Case Crunchy Peanut Butter, 6/2.5 Lb. Jars	\$23.70
Case Smooth Peanut Butter, 6/2.5 Lb. Jars	\$23.70
Case Dirt Squad Citrus Hand Cleaner, 12/16 Oz. Cans	\$20.20
Case Brittle Bites, 12/12 Oz. Cans	\$27.70
"Nut Case" Peanut Gift Pack, 4 packs of 3 cans each	\$30.70

## Farm Bureau Calendar of Events

■ 6th Congressional District Measure the

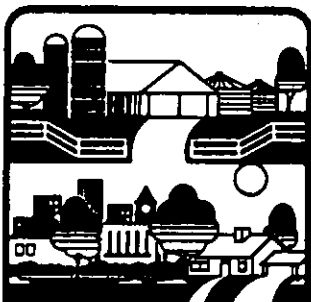
Candidates Forum: Oct. 7, 7 p.m., Fayette County Extension office, Lexington

■ 4th Congressional District Measure the Candidates Forum: Oct. 22, 7 p.m., Owen County Extension office, Owenton

■ General Election: Nov. 3

■ Kentucky Farm Bureau Convention, Dec. 9-12, Galt House, Louisville

■ American Farm Bureau Convention: Jan. 10-14, Albuquerque, New Mexico



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