



KACAA CONNECTION

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UPCOMING DATES

- **July 22-** Corn, Soybean & Tobacco Field Day, Princeton
- **August 14-24** KY State Fair
- **Sept 23-** Kentucky Mechanical Control Field Day, Lexington, KY
- **Sept. 24-** Intermediate Grazing School Woodford Co.
- **Oct 28 -** 2025 Grazing Conference, Clark Co.

GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT:

As my last official duty as President and a member of the search committee, I wanted to invite you to attend all of the candidate meetings taking place over the next month. Please note that stakeholders are invited to attend the sessions. It is of utmost importance that we as an association invite members of the Agriculture Community and seek their input on these candidates. We should be a strong voice in this search process and encourage our stakeholders to fill out the survey when provided. Thanks, and I look forward to our involvement in this process. We have led the way in the past - let's make sure we lead UK Extension into the future with the best leadership. Detailed information is below for each candidate.

Below are the finalists and public presentation schedule. Each finalist will be giving two presentations, one in the eastern and one in the western part of our state.

1. Richard Coffey, Ph.D.
Department Head, Animal and Food Sciences, Oklahoma State University

Date: Thursday, July 17th
Location: Robinson Center Auditorium (RCARS)
Time: 3:00 – 4:30 EDT

Date: Friday, July 18th
Location: Christian County Cooperative Extension Service Office
Time: 3:30 – 5:00 CDT

2. Jennifer Hunter, Ph.D.
Acting Associate Vice President for Land-grant Engagement, Assistant Director Cooperative Extension Service, Family and Consumer Sciences. University of Kentucky

Date: Monday, July 21st
Location: Christian County Cooperative Extension Service Office
Time: 3:30 – 5:00 CDT

Date: Tuesday, July 22nd
Location: Robinson Center Auditorium (RCARS)
Time: 3:00 – 4:30 EDT

3. Craig Wood, Ph.D.
Acting Associate Dean and Director of Extension, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Kentucky

Date: Thursday, July 24th
Location: Robinson Center Auditorium (RCARS)
Time: 3:00 – 4:30 EDT

Date: Friday, July 25th
Location: Christian County Cooperative Extension Service Office
Time: 3:30 – 5:00 CDT

The public presentations will be hybrid so that participants can attend virtually or in person. There will be an opportunity to ask questions following each public presentation. A single recorded presentation from each finalist will be available for viewing for 24 hours after their final presentation is completed. Recorded presentations, along with submitted application materials can be accessed at <https://extension.ca.uky.edu/kces-director-search>. This website will also contain a survey that will allow stakeholders to provide anonymous feedback for each finalist. Surveys will be open from 8:00 a.m. EDT on the first day of the interview process for each candidate until the recording of their presentation is no longer accessible.

Regards, David Fourqurean, KACAA Past-President



2025 Annual Meeting

HIGHLIGHTS



2025 Annual Meeting in Hopkinsville was full of fun, education, and fellowship. Over 92 agents, 11 life members and 25 youth attended! 2026 KACAA Annual meeting is June 16-18 in Natural Bridge State Park.

KACAA AWARD WINNERS

Communications Awards

Audio Recording – Jay Stone, David Fourqurean & Vicki Shadrick *National Finalist*

Published Photo – Garrard Coffey *National Finalist*

Computer Generated Presentation – Corrine Belton

Event Promotional Package – Katie Hughes

Personal Column – Amanda Sears

Newsletter – Megan Wetenkamp

Educational Video Recordings – Joanna Coles

Fact Sheet – Jason Vaughn & Beth Wilson

Website/Online Content – Joanna Coles & Kristin Hildabrand

Learning Module/Notebook – Adam Huber & Jason Phillips

Search for Excellence

4-H Youth Programming -- Kendall Bowman

Commercial & Consumer Horticulture – Annette Heisdorffer

Crop Production – Miranda Rudolph & Team: Matthew Chadwick | Chuck Flowers | Gracey Moffit
Nicole Rhein | John David Tucker | Ben Rudy

Environmental Quality, Forestry & Natural Resources – Reed Graham *National Finalist*

Farm & Ranch Business Management – Lindie Huffman *National Finalist*

Livestock Production – Kendal Bowman & Team: Megan Wetenkamp | Keenan Bishop | Corrine Belton

Sustainable Agriculture Recognition – Reed Graham & Team: Jessica Denniston | Chadwick Conway | Charles May | Sarah Fannin | David Coffey

Young Beginning, or Small Farmer/Rancher – Lindie Huffman & Team: Daniel Allen | JT Benitez | Veronica Bullock * National Finalist*

Ag Awareness & Appreciation

Lindie Huffman | Pendleton County ANR *Regional Finalist*

Achievement Award

Katie Hughes | Union County ANR

Matt Futrell | Christian County ANR

Jessica Hopkins | Harrison County Horticulture

CONGRATS

Distinguished Service Award

Corinne Belton | Shelby County ANR

James “Jay” Stone | Lyon County ANR

Levi Berg | Clark County ANR

KACAA Committees Corner

2025 Annual Meeting brought some changes and updates. Those are in bold below.

Committees compile activities happening under their specific program area across the state. They develop relationships and collaborate with specialists to program share and/or develop program opportunities for agents. They communicate with department chairs to help to seek input and guidance from both parties. They share information and activities between KACAA and NACAA committees. More detailed information found here: <https://kacaa.org/file-downloads>

PROGRAM RECOGNITION COUNCIL

CHAIR | JASON PHILLIPS

RECOGNITION & AWARDS | JESSICA HOPKINS

COMMUNICATIONS | TRACI JOHNSON

SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE | JESSICA BESSIN

PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE | KRISTIN HILDABRAND

PUBLIC RELATIONS | **VACANT**

SCHOLARSHIP | ROBBIE SMITH



PROFESSIONAL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

CHAIR | ROB AMBURGEY

4-H YOUTH | MATT FUTRELL

AGRONOMY & PEST MANAGEMENT | MATT CHADWICK

AG ECONOMICS & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT | MICHELLE SIMON

ANIMAL SCIENCE | SAMANTHA SAUNDERS

**NATURAL RESOURCES/AQUACULTURE - COMBINED WITH
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE**

HORTICULTURE & TURFGRASS | ADAM LEONBERGER

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE | NATHAN RIDER



EXTENSION DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

CHAIR | JOANNA COLES

EARLY CAREER DEVELOPMENT | ADAM HUBER

LEADERSHIP & ADMINISTRATIVE SKILLS | REGINA UTZ

TEACHING & EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES | **COLBY DYE**

AGRICULTURAL ISSUES & PUBLIC RELATIONS | LINDSAY ARTHUR

KACAA Area Directors

For a list of current Area Directors:

www.kacaa.org