

## 2020 KACAA Farm Organizations Report

Summer 2020

**Greg Drake II- KACAA Farm Organization Director**

**KACAA Farm Organization Director:** Greg Drake II, Butler County

I want to thank the membership of KACAA for allowing me to serve as your farm organization director. Kentucky county agents work with every farm organization in our state. We have representatives on several of their boards of directors. I want to thank the KACAA members currently representing us on the various farm organization boards. This report will mark the end of my service as Farm Organization Director. I have enjoyed the opportunity and believe our relationship with the farm organizations across Kentucky to be strong.

**2020 KACAA Country Kitchen:** Greg Drake II, Butler County

The 2020 KACAA Country Kitchen Event was a huge success. We fed and were able to say thank you to lots of legislators and LRC Staff, members of Kentucky Farm Bureau staff, Gov. Office of Ag. Policy, UK administration, and several others. Attendance was the high and the crowd stayed steady during the entire time we were open. I want to thank everyone for securing donations and communicating with me to insure success for this important event. I made extensive notes and will pass those along to whomever organizes the event next year. If you have secured donations in the past please prepare to secure them again. 2021 is scheduled to be a short session, and the Covid situation will likely cause changes in what we are able to do.

**Kentucky Soybean Association:** Tom Miller, Ballard County

Not much to report but we did hold an actual in person meeting on August 7 at the Soybean office in Princeton. It was good to talk with actual people and not over zoom. Trying to make plans for Commodity Conference and Intensive soybean workshops in January and February but everything is on hold for now. More information will be coming on whether these will be in person or virtual.

## **Kentucky Corn Growers Association:** Clint Hardy, Daviess County

The KENTUCKY CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION Board of Directors summer meeting was held Thursday, July 09, 2020 in person at the Ky Corn Growers Conference Room at the UK Research and Education Center at Princeton.

KCGA provides substantial funding for UK CAFE research pertaining to corn production and management. At the meeting Dr. chad Lee spent a great deal of time discussing ongoing research and reviewing submitted research funding request proposals for the upcoming year.

Much discussion pertained to RFS refinery waivers and the national recognition to KCGA for our efforts to educate congress and the president concerning the effect on the ethanol industry. As a result, waivers were curtailed but not stopped. Global decline of covid induced oil consumption and the spring price battle between Russia and Saudi Arabia further declined profitability in ethanol and caused the permanent closure of multiple ethanol plants and hundreds of rural job termination.

Commonwealth AgriEnergy, the Hopkinsville ethanol plant – is continuing to make the 190/200 proof product that goes into sanitizer and have been selling a lot of it! It has helped the bottom line of the plant tremendously. They have invested in the needed upgrades to continue to produce the product and are working to leverage that market for the benefit of their patrons. It's been a positive in an otherwise very disheartening impact to the ethanol industry.

The UK Ag Benefactor Lifetime Membership opportunity ended August 2020. More than 100 farms, non-profits and individuals participated which contributed to the match for ag development funds and resulted in their recognition permanently displayed in the building.

## **KY Dairy Development Council:** Nick Roy, Adair County ANR Agent

The Kentucky Dairy Development has had a busy summer distributing milk and dairy products across Kentucky. Via a cooperative effort with USDA Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, the Farmers to Families Food Box program has distributed thousands of boxes of dairy products across the state. Kentucky milk processors Prairie Farms and Borden's have participated in this project.

County Extension Agents have played a vital role for these programs in many counties. From securing distribution locations, volunteers, and promotion; the assistance provided has been greatly appreciated by the Kentucky Dairy Development Council and Kentucky dairy producers.

It's satisfying to participate in a project doing some good in the neighborhood during a time in which we hear of so many things that are bad. You may have read in a recent KDDC article of a story on a 89 ½ year old Dr. A.F. Brown who volunteered to help distribute at his county milk program. Fellow volunteers watched in awe of him carrying box after box of milk. At the end of the day he said he heard about the giveaway and thought he could help. Dr. Brown's volunteer spirit is one that can serve as a motivation to all of us.



Photo of HH Barlow, KDDC Executive Director and Casey Countian Dr. A.F. Brown

## **Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council:** 2nd Vice President, Brandon Sears Madison Co.

Kentucky Forage & Grassland Council is a partnership of producers, industry representatives, and public agency/university representatives focused on improving and promoting forages. The board has met twice this year to conduct business including planning of conferences, field days and events. Our June meeting was held virtually due to COVID restrictions. Several events this spring and summer were cancelled or converted to virtual activities such as the Forage Field Day held on June 12<sup>th</sup>.

Upcoming events hosted and/or promoted by KFGC include the following:

Fencing School, October 13, 2020, Wolfe County Extension Office

Fencing School, October 15, 2020, Barren County Extension Office

Pasture Walk with Greg Brann, October 16, 2020, Adolphus Kentucky

Virtual Kentucky Grazing Conferences, October 27, 28, & 29, 2020

Alfalfa & Stored Forage Conference, February 25, 2021, Warren County Extension Office

AFGC Annual Conference, January 3-6, 2021, Savannah, GA

The KFGC website <https://kfgc.org/> was redesigned and updated last year. Additionally, KFGC has a Facebook page with shareable content. These are excellent resources to help keep up with current/future events and to also get content for advertisement.

Kentucky Forage & Grassland Council thanks county agents for promoting and attending forage events. KFGC would also like to thank and recognize those agents serving on the board: Heather Graham (Wolfe Co.), Lyndall Harned (Boyd Co.), Adam Barnes (Livingston Co.), Brandon Sears (Madison Co.), Don Sorrell (Campbell Co.), and Traci Missun (Oldham Co.)

## **Current KFGC Program Priorities**

Alternative Forages and Grazing Cover Crops

Economics of Forage Production

Hay/Silage/Baleage and Pricing for Stored Feed

Weed ID, Herbicides, Weed Control Information

Novel Endophyte Tall Fescue

Provide Hands-On Training for Agents in Forage Production

For more information about KFGC and member benefits, please feel free to contact me at: [brandon.sears@uky.edu](mailto:brandon.sears@uky.edu)

## **Kentucky Farm Bureau: Greg, Drake II, Butler County**

Kentucky Farm Bureau has had a good year in 2020. Farm Bureau ended the month of August with a total of 449,715 family memberships. Kentucky Farm Bureau was busy during the session watching bills of interest to agriculture. The session was shortened by Covid but the KFB team stayed on top of any bills that might affect agriculture. KY Farm Bureau is undergoing change as the entire state office has now been renovated on the inside and outside. Many KFB programs and tours have been cancelled this year. During the height of the Covid lockdown there were only a handful of KFB employees working from the state office. Most all federation staff were working from home. There are still several KFB staff working remotely. You may be aware that Farm Bureau offices across KY are offering free wi-fi in their parking lots. County Farm Bureau Offices are still closed for walk in traffic, though some client interaction is allowed. Look for an altered schedule and facility set up at

the KFB convention again this year. Social Distancing requirements and food service restrictions will cause a much different experience for the 101<sup>st</sup> KFB annual meeting December 2-5. The American Farm Bureau Convention is scheduled for January in San Diego, California. The last update I received was AFB is still working with the convention facility to try and have some type of AFB convention. Kentucky Farm Bureau is a very strong grass roots Farm Organization and they represent the Agriculture community very well on the State and National level. KFB values the relationship between KFB and KACAA. I will finish my 4 years of service on the KY Farm Bureau board of directors in December after the state meeting.

### **Kentucky Pork Producers:** Whitney Carmen, Grayson County-

#### **Ky State Fair:**

KY Pork had 3 serving locations during the State Fair. Sales were limited due to COVID-19.

The exhibitors in the hog show were so appreciative having the opportunity to participate in the KY State Fair. They asked if they could take 1 of the KY Pork Producer banners in the show ring so everyone could sign and present to Warren Beeler. During the Parade of Champions, the banner was presented by Commissioner Ryan Quarles.

#### **Kroger:**

We are talking with Kroger. Hopefully we are getting closer to closing the deal on a branded pork product much like Ky Beef Solutions

#### Pork Resource Reminder:

Just as a reminder to agents that National Pork Board and Pork Checkoff have very good resources for producers and consumers.

National Pork Producers Council: [www.nppc.org](http://www.nppc.org)

National Pork Checkoff: [www.pork.org](http://www.pork.org)

Pork: Be inspired: [www.porkbeinspired.com](http://www.porkbeinspired.com)

### **Kentucky Cattlemen's Association:** Michelle Simon, Boone County-

The Kentucky Cattleman's Association hosted their annual meeting January 16-17 In Owensboro, Kentucky. The board of directors did not meet in the spring due to Covid-19 but did meet virtually June 26 and will be meeting virtually again on September 25, 2020. There was a lot of discussion regarding the current market outlooks, the CFAP relief program for farmers, and the challenges the industry is currently facing. The Kentucky Beef Council met twice this spring virtually and discussed the long range plan for the beef checkoff funds. Discussions were based on how the funds have been used historically and new goals and challenges were reviewed to help improve the program and ultimately brainstorm ideas that make the best use of those funds for producers.



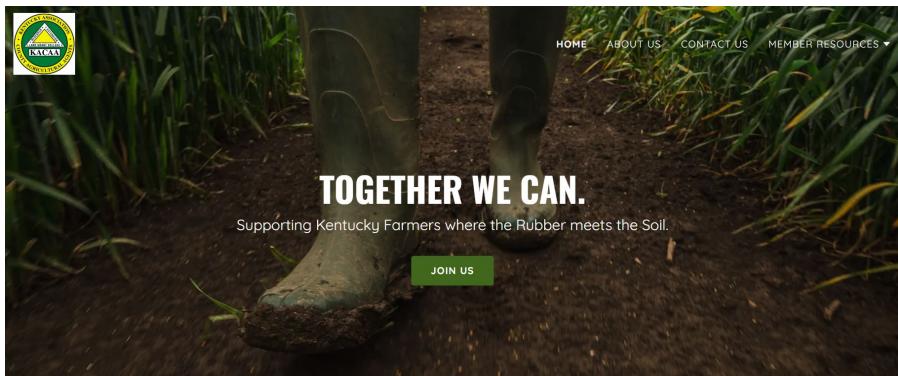
## PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

### KACAA ANNUAL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

LINDIE HUFFMAN, PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR

#### NEW WEBSITE – same domain – [www.kacaa.org](http://www.kacaa.org)

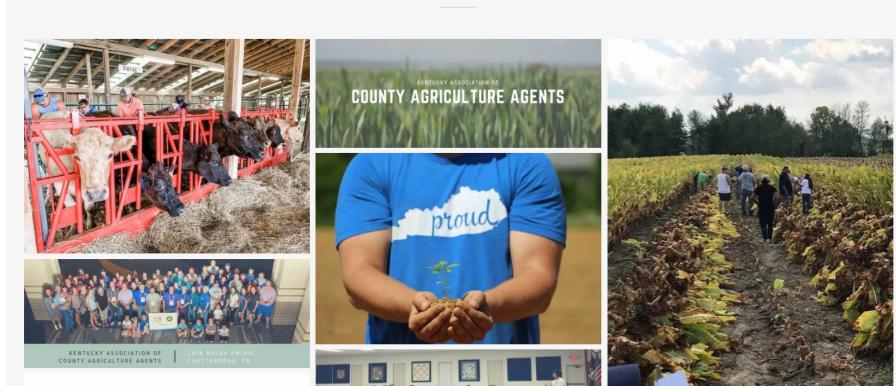
- The website has been overhauled and updated. There are more opportunities for engagement, easier flow of accessibility, and opportunities to highlight agent work.
- Please use the new website, and share ideas of things to add to create a onestop shop with links.



#### NEW WEBSITE FEATURE – RECOGNIZES AGENTS

- Agent's in the Field – in development
  - Toot your horn and share your outstanding programming. Send a blurb (success stories will do), with back up evidence to be recognized for your work. Get great photos and videos of people, including yourself, actively doing something.

#### #UKAGEXTENSION





## SALARY & FRINGE BENEFITS REPORT

KACAA ANNUAL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

CORINNE BELTON, SALARY & FRINGE BENEFITS DIRECTOR

There has been a lot going on in the past year! Please see below.

- **CAFE Covid-19 Staff Recourse Page**

Use this site as your central hub to stay up to date on the latest staff resources:

<https://coronavirus.ca.uky.edu/college-agriculture-food-and-environment-staff-resources>

- **CAFE Video Tutorial Program**

The College of Agriculture, Food and Environment is committed to providing staff with the resources they need to be successful in their role. The Video Tutorial series is one way in which we strive to help ensure employee success.

[VT - Local City Tax Form – Instructions for Employees That Work Outside of Lexington](#)

- **CAFE Mentor Program – Continues to grow.**

The College of Agriculture, Food and Environment is committed to providing new employees with the resources they need to be successful in their role. Mentors help support mentees as they become acclimated to their position by providing peer-to-peer interaction, sharing best practices and helping the new employee understand the organizational structure of the college and where the mentee and his/her position fits into that structure. The length of the program is six months. Check out the [CAFE Mentor Program](#) page for more information.

- **Staff Professional Development:** Click [here](#) to access the Staff Professional Development page. The application is easy and straight forward! We are currently accepting application for FY21.

- **New minimum hourly rate** for regular staff employees was increased to \$12.50/hour. This impacted approximately 300 employees in the college who experienced a pay increase effective 7/1/20.

## **TDL-Well Being Days**

- Regular staff may now utilize up to 2 TDL days per fiscal year as TDL-Well Being days.

## **CAFE Lunch & Learn Series**

The series provides professional development opportunities for all college staff. Sessions are offered throughout the year covering various popular topics. Zoom options are available, and sessions are recorded for inclusion in the Staff Council Quarterly Newsletter.

## **Holidays**

**Special holidays/Bonus Days** - The University has made the decision to close the academic (non-UK HealthCare) campus for six extra days during the December holiday break, resulting in 4 additional paid bonus days for staff members in regular positions in academic areas. Staff in academic areas will receive Dec. 21 through December 24 as additional bonus days. To receive the special holidays/bonus days, an employee must be employed on or before October 25, 2020, in a regular full time or part-time position. Regular part-time employees will be granted holiday benefits on a pro-rated basis.

**Presidential Election Day Holiday** - Presidential election days are holidays.

**Labor Day/Floating Holiday Reminder** - As you are aware, from [Dr. Capilouto's message](#), eligible staff who worked on Labor Day (9/7) can utilize the leave, as a floating holiday, through December 31, 2020. When employees submit the leave request, regardless of which day they plan to utilize the leave, the leave type should be recorded as Holiday-Labor Day.

Example:

The screenshot shows a leave request form with two main sections: "Type of Leave" and "General Data".

**Type of Leave:**

- \* Type of Leave:
- Description: HOLIDAY-Labor Day

**General Data:**

- \* Start Date:
- \* End Date:

For a full list of FY'21 holidays including the load dates and message from Dr. Capilouto please visit the link on our site [here](#).



## **LIFE MEMBERS REPORT**

**KACAA ANNUAL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 22, 2020**

**GLEN ROBERTS, LIFE MEMBERS DIRECTOR**