



*Kentucky Association of  
County Agricultural Agents*

# Awards Program

JUNE 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2021 10AM ET

VIA ZOOM

# Agenda

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WELCOME.....*COURTNEY JENKINS, KACAA PRESIDENT*

INVOCATION..... PHILIP KONOPKA

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS....*COURTNEY JENKINS, KACAA PRESIDENT*

GREETINGS.....*EXTENSION ADMINISTRATION*

AA & DSA AWARDS .....BRIAN JEFFIERS

COMMUNICATION AWARDS.....*DAVID APPELMAN*

SEARCH FOR EXCELLENCE.....ROB AMBURGEY

OUTSTANDING SPECIALIST AWARD ..... ROB AMBURGEY

SPECIAL EFFORT AWARD..... ROB AMBURGEY

LAY LEADER AWARD.....ROB AMBURGEY

SPONSOR THANK YOU .....END OF VIDEO

LIFE MEMBERS MEMORIAL READING.....*GLEN ROBERTS*

CLOSING REMARKS.....*COURTNEY JENKINS*

# DSA Recipients

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## *McLean ANR*

### **DAVID FOURQUEAN**

David's program has been unique in that he has been in two counties with different areas of focus. In Trigg County, his program focused on CPH-45 sales, a beef mineral purchasing group, bred heifer sale and a Strategic Winter Feeding Program (a new concept for wintering cows on stockpiled grass). In McLean County, his focus has been on large scale Poultry Production, as well as developing county resources through grants (\$94, 000) at the local fairgrounds.

## *Warren Horticulture*

### **KRISTIN HILDABRAND**

Kristin has served the University of Kentucky Extension Service for 11 years. Her major accomplishments include being the lead on the Kentucky Farms, Kentucky Flavor (KYF2) project during seasons 3 and 4, which earned a national finalist video recording communication award in 2019. Other noteworthy accomplishments include launching The Sunshine Gardening Podcast and hosting the virtual 2020 Specialty Crop Conference.

## **MICHELLE SIMON**

Since 2010, Michelle Simon, Boone County, Kentucky Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Agent, has worked diligently to provide agricultural education. Her accomplishments include initiating programs such as Master Cattleman, Master Horseman, Farm Start, and commodity production updates. As an active KACAA member, she won the 2015 poster contest and received her Achievement Award in 2018. Her service includes: Bluegrass and Northern Kentucky Area Director, Farm Organizations-Kentucky Cattlemen's Association Representative, Agricultural Economics and Community Development Committee Chairperson.

# **A A R e c i p i e n t s**

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## *Livingston ANR*

### **ADAM BARNES**

Livingston County Extension Agent, Adam Barnes, has developed quality educational programs concentrating on the wide range of diverse county needs from home owners to large scale agricultural operations. In the last eight years, he has developed agricultural programming that range from beekeeping, small space gardening, basic yard care to forage and beef cattle improvement programs. In addition, he serves as Fiscal Contact and has covered vacancies for FCS, 4-H, and SNAP-ED positions.

## *Carroll ANR*

### **CHRISTIN HERBST**

Christin has served the farmers, residents, and youth of Carroll County as their Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources since 2011, delivering a wide array of educational programming in livestock, forage and crop production as well as forestry, home gardening, conservation and local economic development. With a deep appreciation of the Cooperative Extension Service, Christin strives to be a faithful servant for her community, while cultivating meaningful relationships with each person she meets.

*Boyle HORT*

## **ALEXIS SHEFFIELD**

Since 2013, Alexis has been developing the horticulture program in Boyle County, as the first Horticulture Agent to have ever served there. Over the past seven years, Alexis has trained Master Gardeners, created a demonstration garden, and worked with farmers to improve growing practices, marketing needs, and community engagement. Her educational offerings range from hands on classes in home gardens to commercial needs on season extension and soil ecology with both adults and youth.

# Communication Awards

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## *Audio Recording*

**KRISTIN G. HILDABRAND & CHRIS SCHALK**

## *Fact Sheet*

**NICK ROY-TEAM MEMBERS-RICKY ARNETT, PAT HARDESTY & DR. KIERSTEN WISE**

## *Personal Column*

**ANNETTE HEISDORFFER**

## *Feature Story*

**BRYCE ROBERTS**

## *Newsletter, Individual*

**APRIL WILHOIT**

## *Bound Book*

**KRISTIN HILDABRAND**

## *Program Promotional Package*

**MACY FAWNS**

# Communication Awards

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## *Video Presentation*

**ADAM HUBER-TEAM MEMBERS-JASON  
PHILLIPS, JOANNA COLES, GREG DRAKE,  
KRISTIN HILDABRAND, KEVIN LYONS, LEANN  
MARTIN & CHRIS SCHALK**

## *Web Site*

**JOANNA COLES & KRISTIN HILDABRAND**

## *Learning Module*

**ADAM HUBER & JASON PHILLIPS**

## *Published Photo*

**LEANN MARTIN**

# Search for Excellence in Young, Beginning or Small Farm & Ranch

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## *Applicants*

MATTHEW CAMPBELL

Mason County Ag and Natural Resource Agent

PHILIP R. KONOPKA

Lewis County Ag and Natural Resource Agent

APRIL WILHOIT

Fleming County Ag and Natural Resource Agent

SAMANTHA SAUNDERS

Robertson County Ag and Natural Resource Agent

DAVID APPELMAN

Bracken County Ag and Natural Resource Agent

MACY FAWNS

Mason County Horticulture

## *Farm School for Women*

Farm School for Women is a program offered by the Buffalo Trace horticulture and ag & natural resource agents. The program is offered every year during the fall and usually consists of four workshops during the afternoon. The program was based upon Bracken, Fleming, Lewis, Mason, and Robertson counties' needs. We try to offer hands-on workshops and field days to make the program more interactive with each series. Typically we have between 20 to 30 participants; many of the same women attend the program every year as we try to expand topics and provide deep insight into farming techniques. The application covers the years 2019 and 2020; however, we have offered the program for many years and will continue to do so annually.

# Search for Excellence in Consumer or Commercial Horticulture

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## *Applicants*

JESSICA BESSIN

Mercer County Horticulture

### *Farm Fresh to Table – Farmers Market Program*

The Mercer County Farmers Market had big plans for the 2020 market season. Multiple events were scheduled at the market throughout the whole summer. Then COVID arrived, however the market was still able to pursue one of their most successful programs even with COVID restrictions.

Fresh to Table program brought multiple groups within the Mercer County together to provide fresh produce to low income families. The Mercer county Horticulture Agent had planned a veggie voucher program with the farmers market. The market would distribute these vouchers to children throughout the summer at different events. During the planning process, the Horticulture Agent crossed paths with different community groups who had similar programing ideas.

Heart of Kentucky United Way, Mercer County Community Endowment, Mercer Schools, Mercer County Farmers Market, and Mercer County Extension combined forces to plan how to get fresh produce to children in the community. An established cooking club within the school who works closely with Mercer County's SNAP Assistant, ended up being the target audience for this pilot year.

Throughout the summer, children would visit the farmers market once a month and receive a bag of produce valued at \$20. Recipes that correlated with the produce and veggie vouchers were also given out with each bag. 70% of the participants surveyed said they are now adding a new vegetable into their meal planning due to exposure of a new vegetable from these bags. 100% of the participant's surveyed plan to supplement shopping at the farmers market with their regular grocery shopping. The success of this program not only provided local produce to children, but exposure for the farmers market that helps support local growers and the economy.

# Outstanding Specialist Award

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## **DR. NICOLE GAUTHIER**

The KACAA 2021 Outstanding Specialist Award recognizes an individual who goes above and beyond to support KACAA members. For the past 10 years Dr. Nicole Gauthier has strived to provide Agriculture & Natural Resources and Horticulture Agents, as well as other constituents with research-based information. Dr. Gauthier was instrumental in providing information and education on hemp diseases and has also devoted several hours of research to apple rot disease. In addition to providing expertise for fruit and ornamental diseases, Dr. Gauthier has recently stepped up to fill the void for commercial vegetable production pathology. Agents appreciate her willingness to help meet county program needs. Thank you Dr. Gauthier for all that you do to ensure the success of the Cooperative Extension Service!

# Special Effort Award

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*ANR Extension Administrative Services Associate*

## **KEVIN HORN**

The KACAA Special Effort Award recognizes an individual who has worked at an exceptional level, particularly behind the scenes, on behalf of KACAA or one of its members.

This year, the association presented the award to Kevin Horn, Administrative Services Associate for Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension.

Kevin works tirelessly to assist with any and all needs of agents across the state.

Kevin is always eager to help out in any capacity and never shies away from a challenge, even when it comes to feeding more than 120 hungry agents at the annual ANR/Horticulture updates!

Kevin's professionalism, enthusiasm, and unrelenting energy make him easy to work with, and his efforts do not go unnoticed.

Thank you, Kevin, for all that you do to ensure the success of the ANR and Horticulture agents, as well as the Cooperative Extension Service!

# Lay Leader Award

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## **TYLER FERGUSON**

The Lay Leader Award recognizes an individual who has been a leader in all facets of agriculture in his/her community.

Tyler & his wife, Andrea, have owned Blessed Ridge Farm since 2008, developing it from a reclaimed strip mine site into a working cattle farm. Tyler works full-time at Republic Diesel in outside sales and management. He is a graduate of Johnson Central High School and Big Sandy Community and Technical College.

In addition to Tyler's full-time job and farm responsibilities, he still makes time to serve in leadership capacities in several organizations, as well as host various on-farm demonstrations and events.

Tyler serves in the following leadership roles:

- District 10 representative on KFB Board of Directors
- Kentucky Farm Bureau Young Farmer Committee Chair, 2019
- Regional chair of the Young Producers' Council of the Kentucky Cattleman's Association
- Graduate of KFB's Leadership Enhancement for Agricultural Development (LEAD) program
- President of Highlands Beef Cattle Association

Tyler is also an engaged member of the following:

- Johnson Co. Extension Council
- Johnson Co. Agricultural Advancement Council
- Johnson Co. Agricultural Development Council
- Little Mud Lick Church of God (where he has served in several leadership roles)
- National Cattlemen's Beef Association

# S p o n s o r s

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KENTUCKY FARM  
BUREAU INSURANCE

KENTUCKY FARM  
BUREAU FEDERATION

KENTUCKY CORN  
GROWERS

# The County Agent

Throughout the day the people call  
The person they think should know it all;  
My tree is getting yellow now,  
My lawn is turning brown somehow  
My bush is losing all its leaves.  
My garden is dying! Someone grieves.

They bring the bugs they find at home;  
They cart in soil from sand to loam  
And spiders, crickets, worms and weevils.  
They want to know if their bites are evil.  
They bring the limbs of ailing trees;  
They ask advice on killing bees  
And how to rid their barn of bats.  
They want a trap for critters and cats.

They question when to plant their beans  
And when to harvest their turnip greens.  
they bring in sickly-looking shoots  
And unknown weeds pulled up by roots.  
they ask them to stop by their house  
To trap a skunk or kill a mouse,  
Get rid of pesky hornet's nests,  
Identify a garden pest.

They seek to know how much to water  
And when to send their pig to slaughter.  
From eight to late the Agent hears  
Complaints and questions, dreams, and fears;  
He/She does their best to help them all,  
Extending knowledge with each call.  
On their advice, folks can depend;  
The county agent is their friend!

-Grace Jessen