

Help secure agriculture’s future by donating to the ‘Ag Tag’ fund

Kentucky Ag Tag is on the road to \$1 million, and we need your help getting there.

Last year, Kentucky farmers donated a record-breaking \$931,201.81 to the Ag Tag Program. It was the largest amount ever donated in a single year and topped the 2023 total by nearly \$200,000. But this year, I’m hoping we can reach that \$1 million mark creating even more positive outcomes for Kentucky’s agricultural youth.

Ag Tag money is generated through the \$10 voluntary donation Kentuckians make each year when they buy or renew their farm vehicle license plates, or “ag tags.” The money is then split equally between the Kentucky Department

of Agriculture, Kentucky FFA, and Kentucky 4-H to support Kentucky’s agriculture youth and other organizations and programs benefiting our farm families.

The \$10 donation may seem like a small amount. But, by multiplying it by the thousands of Kentuckians that give and then putting those funds in the hands of the department that focuses on the state’s agriculture community and the two leading agriculture youth development organizations, we are providing a strong backbone for Kentucky’s agricultural future.

As a former FFA kid, I know the differences the organization can make in a young person’s life. Providing leadership experiences, life lessons,

lasting friendships, and giving me the skills I needed for my future, FFA set me off on a path that led me to the Commissioner of Agriculture office.

In the same way FFA helped shape my life, 4-H creates experiences that make lasting impacts. 4-H and FFA are two youth programs that are at the forefront of the future of Kentucky agriculture, providing direction in life for many of our influential young people.

You can help create those lasting impacts by donating to Kentucky 4-H and Kentucky FFA when you buy or renew your farm license plate, or “Ag Tags” this year. When renewing your plate, you have the opportunity to make a \$10 donation. It’s a small amount that can make a huge difference and one of the easiest ways to give back to the community and the future of agriculture.

The KDA uses its share of the Ag Tag funds for various programs such as the Ag Athlete of the Year awards, the Kentucky Leopold Conservation Award, Kentucky Women in Agriculture, and the University of Kentucky Grain and Forage Center of Excellence. KDA will be using the funds for a new program this year that monetarily incentivizes Kentucky school districts using Kentucky food products for school meals. We are extremely excited about this endeavor and see it as a fantastic way to bring more Kentucky agriculture products into healthy, nutritious school meals.

Half of the 4-H and FFA donations are returned to local councils and chapters, meaning leaders in your community can use those funds to cover the cost of 4-H and FFA camp and other leadership

programs for our youth. County 4-H councils use Ag Tag dollars to provide 4-H camp scholarships and travel for life-changing educational experiences to enable local 4-H youth to grow as leaders and engaged citizens. FFA chapters are free to use the money to meet the greatest needs in their community, such as FFA jackets for students in need or helping cover travel costs to leadership events.

That unselfish willingness to help build and prepare Kentucky’s agriculture youth are predominant features of FFA and 4-H. They are two of the leading youth organizations in Kentucky and the nation. While they work to prepare youth to take on the challenges agriculture faces, KDA works every day to promote Kentucky’s farmers, inviting

each resident in the Commonwealth to realize the importance agriculture plays in the present and in the future. That future is Kentucky’s agriculture youth. That’s why this year’s Ag Tag campaign theme is “Bluegrass Beginnings, Boundless Futures.” Funding from your voluntary donations helps all three organizations fulfill our mission to sustain Kentucky agriculture for generations to come, securing the future of Kentucky agriculture.

In the weeks to come, as many of you head back to your county clerk’s office to renew your Ag Tags, I hope you will make the \$10 donation. Last year, we set a record for Ag Tag collections in a single year. Let’s try to break that record this year, while at the same time helping to ensure a bright future for Kentucky agriculture.



JONATHAN SHELL



BRECKINRIDGE COUNTY’S girls basketball squad from left front, Nancy Woods, Debbie Jo Allen, Carol Sturgeon, Georgia Bennett and Debbie Young. Back from left, Coach Lee Davis, Martilla Gray, Sandra Wilson, Debbie Metcalf, Jackie Ball, Merewyn Macy, Sharon O’Reilly, Brenda Kiper, Betty Triplett, Marilyn Wilson and Gail Greenlee. Not present for the picture was Darlene Stiff.

Courtesy photo

The first Breckinridge County Lady Tiger basketball team.

TIGERS

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The celebrating, fighting Lady Tigers agree it was a humbling experience to be acknowledged that they paved the way for future all girls to enjoy and excel in the game.

Members present for the celebration were Gail Greenlee, Martilla Gray,

Debbie Young, Debbie Allen-Warf, Nancy Woods Edmonds, Georgia Bennett Lee, and Carol Sturgeon Tucker. Absent members included Deborah Metcalfe, Sandra Wilson, Marilyn Wilson, Sharon O’Reilly Bratcher, and Brenda Kiper. The team also remembered the late Betty Triplett, Jackie Ball, and Team Manager Becky Jo Robinson.

— Submitted

COUNTY

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fourth degree — domestic violence — no visible injury; and terroristic threatening in the third degree.

Craig Spence, 43, of Hardinsburg, was indicted for tampering with physi-

cal evidence.

William G. Wiley, 30, of Greenville, was indicted for fleeing or evading police in the first degree (on foot); fleeing or evading police in the first degree (motor vehicle); wanton endangerment in the first degree; wanton endangerment in the first degree — police officer

(four counts); possession of a controlled substance in the first degree, first offense — methamphetamine; unlawful imprisonment in the first degree; resisting arrest; and operating motor vehicle under the influence of controlled substance (aggravating circumstances), first offense.

SESSION

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insurance is primary or secondary in cases involving loaned vehicles.

SJR 26 directs the Department for Medicaid Services to provide the Legislative Research Commission with a report regarding pharmacist payment parity.

SB 64 strengthens protections for critical infrastructure by expanding legal safeguards to include cable, telephone, and broadband facilities. To enhance public safety and service reliability, it increases penalties for crimes like copper theft, which has caused 911 outages and power failures. The bill includes an emergency clause for immediate enactment

upon final passage.

SB 73, introduces new measures to combat sexual extortion, enhance victim protections, and raise public awareness through education and resource accessibility.

SB 76 updates construction contract rules by raising the escrow retainage threshold from \$500,000 to \$2 million to reflect modern project costs. It requires timely payments through escrow accounts and prohibits contract waivers, promoting fairness and financial stability in the industry.

It’s a privilege to serve you in Frankfort. If you

have questions or ideas, feel free to contact my office at (502) 564-8100 or email me at Stephen.Meredith@kylegislature.gov.

Sen. Stephen Meredith, R-Leitchfield, represents the 5th Senate District, encompassing Breckinridge, Butler, Grayson, Ohio, and Meade Counties. Meredith serves as chair of the Senate Health Services Committee and co-chair of the Government Contract Review Committee. He is also a member of the Senate Committees on Education; Families and Children; and Veterans, Military Affairs, and Public Protection.

UPI-Market Report Monday, February 17, 2025

Receipts: 32 Last Reported: 676 Year Ago: 738

Compared to last week: No trends available due to very light test. Widespread flooding and winter weather advisory limited movement of cattle. Supply included: 63% Feeder Cattle (21% Steers, 29% Heifers, 50% Bulls); 38% Slaughter Cattle (92% Cows, 8% Bulls). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 29%. STEERS - Med & Lrg 1-2: 415 lbs. - \$320. 565 lbs. - \$276. 650 lbs. - \$263. HEIFERS - Med to Lrg 1-2: 200 lbs. - \$310. 305 lbs. - \$240. 400 lbs. - \$252. 705 lbs. - \$220. COWS - Boner 80 - 85%. 1165 to 1485 lbs. - \$128 to \$141. 1045 to 1280 lbs. \$147 to 150.

United Producers, Inc.

This report reflects the majority of the cattle sold with a USDA grade, weight, & sex. This report does not reflect all animals sold on the above date.

Kentucky Proud offers training for agriculture producers

Marketing trends, product reviews offered for attendees

Kentucky Proud, the official marketing program of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, is offering a one-day workshop for Kentucky producers to help them develop a plan to market agricultural products to a wider audience. Kentucky Proud is hosting the Retail Readiness workshop in partnership with the Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (KCARD) and the University of Kentucky’s MarketReady Producer Training Program

“We are excited to offer this one-day workshop for Kentucky agriculture producers,” Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell said. “Agriculture drives economic growth, and helping our producers expand their market opportunities benefits not only them but the entire state. Creating strong pathways for success ensures a thriving future for Kentucky agriculture.”

The workshop, set for 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. EST March 25 in Elizabethtown, will provide an overview of marketing trends and funding opportunities, peer-to-peer panels, discussions, product reviews, and advice from a variety of local retailers as well as

hands-on workshops for marketing planning and elevator pitch development.

The workshop has been developed with the emerging producer in mind: Those who have seen success in direct sales and are considering a move into retail sales or wholesale opportunities.

Attendees can hear from other agricultural producers who are successfully selling in the retail space and support their products with marketing plans. Attendees will learn from the retail community and discover what types of local products are best matched for placement, as well as the process for new vendors and safety certifications. Up to three products may be submitted to be reviewed anonymously by mass retailers, specialty retailers, and farm retail markets who will provide coaching and feedback on the overall marketability and attractiveness of the items.

Participants will leave the workshop with a marketing plan and an elevator pitch that can guide their journey.

The \$15 workshop at the Hardin County Extension Office, 111 Opportunity Way, Elizabethtown, includes lunch. Digital registration can be accessed in the following link: eventbrite.com/e/retail-readiness-marketing-workshop-registration-1236641651469?aff=oddttdcreator.

— Submitted

ADOPTS

FROM PAGE A1

enable the court to approve such a request if neighbors come to an agreement to allow the solar energy system to be built to the property line.

With there being no further discussion, the fiscal court took a vote on the ordinance, and it passed on the ordinance, and it passed on a four-to-three vote, with Lucas, Albright, and 5th District Magistrate Edwin “Sam” Moore voting against it.

In a related matter, the fiscal court voted to set a \$15,000 cap on how much it may spend for an attorney to represent the county in matters related to EDP Renewables’ Clover Creek solar project, as well as to name Anthony-Armes and Greenwell as the attorney’s the primary points of contact.

In other business, the fiscal court:

- Heard from Sheriff

Billy Richardson, who gave an update following the incident in which one deputy was shot and another shot at in January. Richardson said both deputies are now back to work; however, the cruisers involved in the incident will be withheld as Kentucky State Police (KSP) evidence until the case is resolved. He also expressed his appreciation to the Hardinsburg and Irvington police departments and KSP for their assistance with the incident.

- Approved paying \$1,420 for well work at the Joseph Holt Home.
- Opened sealed bids for preventive maintenance

at the Breckinridge County Judicial Center. The fiscal court accepted HMC’s bid of \$2,081 quarterly for this service.

- Approved an agreement between the Breckinridge County County Detention Center and Stepworks for medication assisted treatment services.
- Approved water line and sewer line licenses for Industrial Park Lane for the city of Hardinsburg.
- Entered into executive session to discuss pending litigation. Upon returning to regular session, it was reported that no action was taken in executive session.



FHRA
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MONEY FOR ON-FARM IMPROVEMENTS AVAILABLE...
**KADF**
KENTUCKY AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND
Breckinridge County Conservation District
1101 S. Hwy. 261, Suite 102
Hardinsburg, KY 40143
(270) 756-1696 ext. 3014
BreckCCD@outlook.com

COUNTY AGRICULTURAL INCENTIVES PROGRAM (CAIP)
Applications will be available for Breckinridge County’s CAIP to assist farmers in completing on-farm improvements.
Application Period:
February 19 – March 26, 2025
No applications will be accepted after March 26, 2025.
Application Availability:
Breckinridge County Conservation District
Monday – Friday (7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.)
For More Information:
Contact Marti Janes at 270-756-1696 ext. 3014 or email BreckCCD@outlook.com.
All applications are scored, based on the scoring criteria set by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board.

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