

# Fiber innovation, youth education take center stage during Kentucky Alpaca Month

By Abigail Barrett  
KDA Intern  
Kentucky Ag News

NICHOLASVILLE - To celebrate one of the state's most unique and growing agricultural sectors, Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell signed a proclamation designating July as Kentucky Alpaca Month. The recognition shines a spotlight on farmers, fiber producers, and educators who are building a sustainable future for agriculture and youth education.

To celebrate the month, the Alpaca & Llama Fun Show at the Jessamine County Fair brought together families, 4-H youth, breeders, and community members for an evening filled with showmanship, obstacle courses, and hands-on learning. The Fun Show was more than ribbons and competition; it was a glimpse into the deep bond between young handlers and their animals. Youth participants showcased their animals in both obstacle and showmanship competitions. Among them

was Dawson, a 4-H member who presented her alpaca, Stanley. "He's making noise the entire time," Dawson said. "He's like, 'I'm not happy about this, but I'll do it.'"

That partnership, built on weeks of training, highlights the way 4-H programs ground today's youth, giving them meaningful responsibilities and real-world connections far from screens and social media.

Fun Show coordinator Gerria Berryman said the event, along with showcasing animals,

was about community, education, and honoring Kentucky's deep-rooted fiber tradition.

While alpacas are beloved for their quirky charm, it's their fleece that fuels industry growth. Alpaca fiber is a naturally soft, durable, hypoallergenic, and flame-retardant premium product gaining national recognition. In one notable initiative, 10 Kentucky alpaca farms are pooling their fiber with six farms in Indiana and Ohio to produce high-quality socks.

"Alpacas used to be all about breeding for show animals," said Steve Ross, treasurer of the Kentucky Alpaca Association, who said the demand for fleece is changing that.

Two major alpaca

fleece events are taking place in Kentucky during Alpaca Month. The Boone County Extension Office in Burlington hosted the Alpaca Owners Association's National Fleece Show July 12-16, followed by the All Suri Fleece Show July 22-23. Suri is an alpaca breed known for its luxurious fleece. Both events highlight the demand for high-quality alpaca products and provide producers with a platform to promote their craft.

"This (fleece shows) has helped shift Kentucky's alpaca economy toward more maintainable, fleece-focused goals," Ross said.

Alpaca farming in Kentucky has its challenges. A lack of regional fiber mills, falling alpaca prices since 2008,

and limited veterinary expertise all pose hurdles. However, opportunities in the fiber farming industry are expanding, particularly through initiatives like fiber workshops, mentorship programs, and agribusiness events that bridge the gap between farms and the public. These efforts are facilitating meaningful connections between alpaca farms and their communities, encouraging a new generation of fiber farmers to emerge.

Gerria Berryman and her family raise Suri and Huacaya alpacas at Berryman Farm in Jessamine County. The

see **ALPACA**,  
page A9



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## Commissioner Shell makes appointments to Kentucky boards

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Fritz Giesecke, who was reappointed to the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board, was previously misidentified on second reference.*

FRANKFORT, Ky. – Commissioner of Agriculture Jonathan Shell has recently made appointments to the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board (KADB) and the Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation (KAFC).

Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation Linda Rumpke, Lexington, was reappointed to the board. Rumpke will represent commercial lenders. Her new term expires June 26, 2029.

Frank Penn, Lexington, was

reappointed to the board. He will represent the equine industry. His term expires June 26, 2029.

Steve Olt, Greensburg, was appointed to the board. He will represent dairy farmers. His term expires June 26, 2029.

KAFC addresses the unique financing needs of agriculture in the commonwealth. Its mission is to strengthen Kentucky agriculture by providing access to low-interest loan programs through joint partnerships with local lending institutions. KAFC assists beginning farmers, farm families, and agribusinesses obtain the necessary capital to establish, maintain, or expand their agricultural operation.

Kentucky Agricultural

Development Board Heather Graham, Campton, was reappointed. Graham will represent active farmers. Her term expires July 6, 2029.

Fritz Giesecke, Horse Cave, was reappointed. Jones will represent Kentucky Farm Bureau. His term expires July 6, 2029.

The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board provide grants and incentives to help farmers and agribusinesses innovate and grow.

Both boards meet monthly to review and approve loan and grant applications. To learn more about KAFC and the KADB meeting schedules visit the Kentucky Department of Agriculture website.

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BALLARD CIRCUIT COURT  
CIVIL ACTION NO. 25-CI-00043  
E-FILE

INDEPENDENCE BANK  
PLAINTIFF

V.

**ADVERTISED NOTICE PURSUANT TO  
KRS 426.200 AND KRS 426.560**

3 RIVERS GROCERY MARKET, LLC, et al  
DEFENDANTS

NOTICE: By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale dated March 5, 2025 (McCracken Circuit Court, Case No. 24-CI-941), and by Ballard Circuit Court Order Granting Plaintiff's Motion for Order of Sale dated June 26, 2025, in the amount of \$72,375.30 with interest, advancements and charges, I shall proceed to offer for sale at the Courthouse steps on the West side in Wickliffe, Ballard County, Kentucky, to the highest bidder at public auction on the 11th day of August 2025, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., the following described property located at 906 Wickliffe Road, Wickliffe, KY 42087, Map ID# 19A-05-25:

Being the same property conveyed to 3 Rivers Grocery Market LLC, a Kentucky Limited Liability Company, by deed dated April 19, 2023 and recorded in Deed Book 133, Page 60, Ballard County Court Clerk's Office.

**Check the clerk file for more details about the property.**

The property will be sold under the following terms and conditions unless otherwise stated in a specific Notice of Sale or announced at the time of sale:

That the real property shall be sold as a whole as above-described to the highest and best bidder or bidders. At the time of sale, the successful bidder(s) shall either pay the purchase price in full by check or make a deposit of at least ten percent (10%) of the purchase price, payable by check, with the balance on credit for thirty (30) days, subject to good and proper surety bond, as approved by the Master Commissioner. If sold on credit, the purchaser shall pay ten percent (10%) down at time of sale and execute a good and proper sale bond, with sufficient surety, **approved by the Master Commissioner prior to the sale**, to secure the unpaid balance of the purchase price. The bond shall bear interest at the rate of 6.00% per annum from date of sale until paid and fully due and payable in thirty (30) days. To the extent applicable, the property will be sold subject to the statutory right of redemption. The bond shall have the same force and effect as a Judgment and shall remain a lien on the real property until the purchase price, plus interest and costs, are fully paid. The property shall be sold free and clear of all taxes and encumbrances, except the purchaser will assume payment of ad valorem taxes due and payable during the year of sale, and all subsequent years following the sale.

The sale may be cancelled, and any announcements made at the sale take precedence over printed matter contained herein. The Master Commissioner does not have access to the inside of any property and does not warrant title. The Master Commissioner only conveys pursuant to the Judgment and Order of Sale. The successful bidder(s) has 10 days after the sale to examine title and file exceptions.

Dated the 25th day of July 2025.

/s/ Daniel C. Thomas  
Daniel C. Thomas, Master Commissioner  
(8-1-25\_1X\_AY)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Bluegrass Barrel Reserve, LLC, hereby declares its intention to apply for Distilled Spirits and Wine Storage License, the license for Bluegrass Barrel Reserve, and will be located at 101 Liberty Dr. Kevil, KY 42053. Hereby declares intention(s) to apply for a Distilled Spirits and Wine Storage license(s) no later than 8/1/2025. The business to be licensed will be located at 101 Liberty Dr. Kevil, Ky 42053 and doing business as Bluegrass Barrel Reserve. The managing member/member are William Daniel Steele of 1607 Sycamore St. Murray, KY 42071 and Thomas Logan Davis of 299 E. Cambridge Ln Nicholasville, KY 40356. Any person, association, corporation or body politic may protest the granting of the license by writing the Department of Alcohol Beverage Control, 500 Mero St. 2 NE 33, Frankfort, KY 40601 within 30 days of the date of legal publication.

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