

Mercer County Farm Bureau honors agricultural community at annual meeting

April Ellis
Herald Staff

Mercer County's agricultural heritage and the farmers working to carry it into the future were celebrated during the Mercer County Farm Bureau's annual meeting Aug. 15 at Devine's Corn Maze & Pumpkin Patch.

Despite the summer heat, the evening provided an opportunity for Farm Bureau members to recognize several members of the local agricultural community, including three longtime farming families honored as Legacy Farms and the organization's 2026 Young Farmer of the Year.

The Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation established the Legacy Farm program in 2023 to recognize farms for their long-standing commitment to agriculture and significant contributions to their local communities.

This year, Mercer County Farm Bureau recognized the Riley Farm, Locus Hill Farm and Five Reasons Farm.

"We are very thankful for our Legacy Farms because we need the 2% that feeds and clothes the other 98% of the world," Mercer County Farm Bureau President Tess Caudill said.

Edwin and Vicky Riley were recognized for the Riley Farm and more than 50 years in agriculture.

Farming has been a lifelong passion for Edwin Riley, who was raised on a farm and developed a love for agriculture at an early age. Through the years, Edwin and Vicky have raised cattle and grown a variety of crops, including corn, soybeans, tobacco, hay and hemp.

The couple has one daughter, Jessica, and two grandchildren.

More than a century of family agricultural history was recognized with the designation of Locus Hill Farm as a Legacy Farm.

The McAfee farm was decided to the Terhune family in 1909. Buddy Terhune, Teresa Ashton and Stephen Terhune, children of Sonny and Carolyn Terhune, grew up on the family farm.

Locus Hill operated as a chicken hatchery until 1963, when the operation transitioned to dairy farming. The dairy continued until December 2000.

Today, Stephen Terhune continues the family's agricultural tradition, operating approximately 30 Angus cow-calf pairs on the farm's 70 acres.

John Alvin and Nancy Goodlett of Five Reasons Farm were also honored for a farming legacy spanning more than 75 years.

The Goodletts followed in their parents' agricultural footsteps while balancing farming with careers away from the farm. John worked for IBM, while Nancy worked for the U.S. Postal Service.

Throughout their years in agriculture, the couple has raised cattle, milked cows and produced tobacco, corn and hay.

Their family now includes two children, Dee Dee and

Stephen, five granddaughters and eight great-grandchildren, adding new generations to a family with deep agricultural roots.

The Farm Bureau also looked toward the future of Mercer County agriculture by recognizing Jason Currans as its 2026 Young Farmer of the Year.

Currans' agricultural roots began on his family's Mercer County dairy farm, where he grew up breeding and raising registered Holsteins. From an early age, he helped milk and show cattle and worked alongside his parents, Jeff and Deborah Currans.

He remained involved in the dairy operation until his parents retired from milking in 2017. By then, Currans had purchased his grandparents' farm and was building his own agricultural operation.

He expanded beyond his dairy background to include beef cattle, sheep, grass and alfalfa hay, along with a small lawn care business.

Today, Currans and his

partner, Tess, farm approximately 800 acres in Mercer County. Their operation includes about 120 cow-calf pairs divided between spring and fall calving herds.

They also background their own calves and purchased

calves, with a goal of feeding and marketing approximately 300 head each year.

Hay production occupies much of Currans' summer. He bales several thousand bales annually, producing enough to feed his own cattle while also

marketing hay to friends and neighbors.

Corn is grown and chopped for silage each fall to provide winter feed. Currans

also works with his parents to raise alfalfa and orchard grass on their farm, baling it into small square bales and selling it to area farmers.



Photo Submitted

Jason Currans was recognized with the Young Farmer of the Year member by Mercer County Farm Bureau Board Member Chase Cocanougher.



Photo Submitted

The Five Reasons Farm was recognized with the Legacy Farm award by the Mercer County Farm Bureau. Pictured, left to right, Mercer County Farm Bureau President Tess Caudill and Nancy and John Alvin Riley.



Photo Submitted

Locus Hill Farm was recognized with the Legacy Farm award by the Mercer County Farm Bureau. Pictured, left to right, Stephen Terhune, Sunni Ashton Hernandez, Farm Bureau President Tess Caudill and Teresa Ashton.



Photo Submitted

The Riley Farm was recognized with the Legacy Farm award by the Mercer County Farm Bureau. Pictured, left to right, Mercer County Farm Bureau Board Member Zack Ison and Edwin and Vicky Riley.



Photo Submitted

Mercer Chamber Host Ribbon Cutting for The UPS Store

The Mercer Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting for the new UPS Store located at 856 S. College Street. The store is open seven days a week and services also include Notary services, copying and mailboxes. Pictured left to right: Chad Reid, Mason Harness-Ratcliffe, Manager Michael Cox, Kelley Hines and Landon Coontz.

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MERCER COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT MERCER COUNTY, KENTUCKY GWINN ISLAND SANITARY SEWER PROJECT PROPERTY CONNECTIONS

The Mercer County Sanitation District is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project:

Gwinn Island Road Sanitary Sewer Project
Property Connections

Sealed Bids will be accepted for the plumbing connections to installed grinder pumps for no less than 20 properties located on Gwinn Island Road and Gwinn Island Circle in Boyle County, Kentucky until September 17, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. Interested Bidders should contact the Mercer County Sanitation District directly for property details regarding the connections. Sealed Bids for the plumbing components will only be accepted.

Bidders shall comply with all provisions of the Federal Davis Bacon Act for wage rates.

OWNER reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, to waive any technicality, and to accept any Bid which it deems advantageous. All Bids shall remain subject to acceptance for 60 days after the time set for receiving bids.

Contract award shall be based on the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.

This bid is subject to Kentucky Revised Statutes Section 45A.490 through 45A.494, which in general provides that a "resident bidder" of Kentucky is to be given a bidding preference over a "nonresident bidder" who is registered in a state that gives preference to its in-state resident bidders over a Kentucky resident bidder. The bidding preference is to be the same as that stipulated for the state of the "nonresident bidder." If the state of the "nonresident bidder" provides no specific preference, the "resident" and "nonresident bidders" are to be treated the same when evaluating Bids.

All Bidders must comply with all Federal, State and Local Equal Employment Opportunity laws and regulations which prohibit discrimination in employment regarding race, creed, color, sex, or national origin.

Bidder's attention is called to the fact that any Contract awarded under this Advertisement to Bid is funded in part by funds from the EPA Sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants Program and the Cleaner Water Program. All iron and steel products used on the project shall be produced in the United States and comply with the American Iron and Steel requirements. All iron, steel, manufactured products and construction material shall also be produced in the United States and comply with the Build America, Buy America Act requirements. Bidders shall comply with President's Executive Order 11246, Equal Employment Opportunity as amended.

Bidders shall comply with 40 CFR 31.36 which includes but is not limited to the following: (1) the President's Executive Order 11246 as amended, which prohibits discrimination in employment regarding race, creed, color, sex, or national origin, (2) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, (3) the Anti-Kickback Act, and (4) the Contract Work Hours Standards Act.

All taxes are the responsibility of the successful Bidder.

Sealed Bids shall be submitted to the Mercer County Sanitation District located at 801 Pleasant Hill Drive, Burgin, Kentucky 40310 or P.O. Box 303, Burgin, Kentucky 40310. Questions shall be directed to Mike D. Sanford, Executive Director, at 801 Pleasant Hill Drive, Burgin, Kentucky or by calling (859) 748-9654.

Published by the authority of the Mercer County Sanitation District
Mike D. Sanford, Executive Director

Dated at Mercer County, Kentucky
September 3, 2026