

# Arlington plant continued from front page



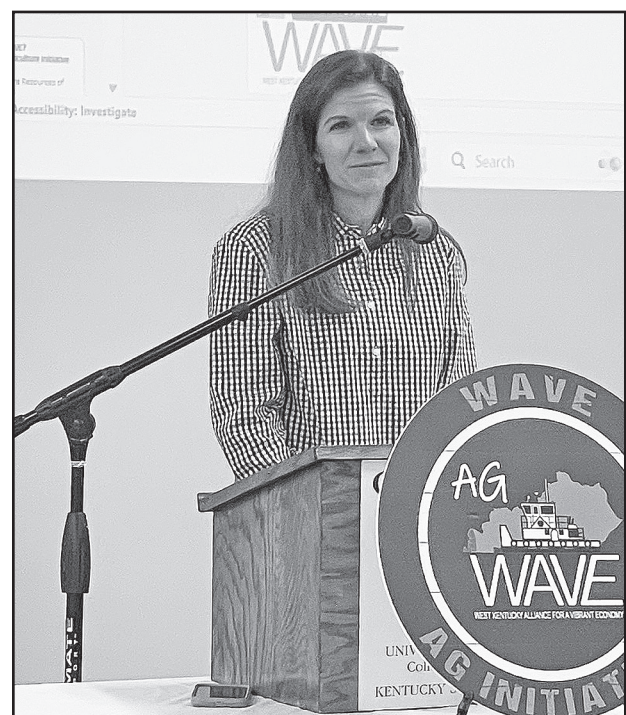
Alexis Scott with Spring Aerospace talked about a large-scale drone. Scott's presentation included a photo of a massive drone 12' L x 16' W; 6' L x 3' W (folded), with 70-gallon spray tank with collapsible boom.



Carlisle County Judge/Executive Greg Terry speaking at the WAVE Ag meeting Monday.



Chris Negus, co-founder and CEO of Global NRG, and the co-developer of Green Energy Parks.



Dr. Laura Ken Hoffman spoke at the Wave Ag Meeting about the Murray State Veterinary School, still in the process of site surveys and obtaining credentials with a goal of being ready in 2028.



The Carlisle County Extension Office was standing room only for the WAVE Ag meeting Monday.



WAVE AG Chair Phillip Bean: "WAVE Ag is excited with this announcement of a win/win agricultural project in our region, and we look forward to the development of this transformative initiative."

His research began nearly 10 years ago, and O'Neal said he and wife Holly have visited several different digester facilities across the United States and he corresponded with "countless companies and individuals."

He continued, "Through emails, zoom calls, phone calls, texts, and in-person visits for a long time seemed to lead to a dead end, until three years ago." That is when he met Shelly Preston-Overby and Steve Shutler from the United Kingdom.

"From the beginning, we knew that together we could do something meaningful, not just for ourselves but for Carlisle County and beyond," O'Neal said.

"By using the available feedstock in our area, along with the experience and large-scale digester technology, we saw the opportunity to produce renewable natural gas and liquid carbon dioxide, while also creating digestate that could go back to our local farmers as a nutrient rich product, it truly felt like a win for everyone."

### How it will work

O'Neal said Green Energy Parks will build relationships with farmers and coordinate timely harvest of materials from the field.

"The two primary products we are focusing on will be corn stover and rye," he said.

"The corn stover will be gathered using the John Deere forager with the flail head running directly behind the combine to ensure the product is moved quickly and efficiently," he said.

Pricing Structure: \$10 a ton; with expected yields of at least five tons per acre.

He said by removing the stover, farmers have the no-till capability to plant canola, wheat, or rye. If rye is planted, Genesis will also harvest that in the spring at \$10 a ton, with projected yields between 10 and 15 tons per acre.

That material will go to the digester and co-digest with hog manure and chicken litter for 40 to 50 days. Next, it goes through a press process to separate solids from liquids. "Then the farmer receives the material back, already broken

down and blended with stabilized nutrients from the other feedstock."

Chris Negus, co-founder and CEO of Global NRG and co-developer of Green Energy Parks, said they plan to break ground for the 26-acre site in the next few months. Plans are to start taking the product in 2027.

### Questions & Concerns

Questions were taken from the audience of the packed room at the extension office, one of which was concern about smell and possible run-off.

Negus said they will use technology to minimize any odor and avoid discharge into the local waterways with a container system.

Dry form will come back to the farmer, free of charge. The liquid form will be available at the facility site.

Someone asked about the condition of the roads with the heavy truck travel. Negus said part of the plan from the Governor's office is to improve the quality of the roads.

Someone asked if this is a pilot plant or if there are others. Negus said there are over 200 in the United States already. "This will be the largest aerobic digester facility in the state of Kentucky," he said.

One person expressed concerns about it being located near the school and the traffic involved and asked how many miles it would be from the school.

O'Neal responded two to three miles. She asked about research concerning run-off and chemicals. O'Neal responded, "This will be one of the most scrutinized things in the state, far more so than hog barns or chicken barns or anything like that. The EPA has their hand all over it."

One person asked about noise. The operation will be from 7 a.m. until 4 p.m. and noise should be minimal.

One person, who said he was a lifelong farmer, lives near the proposed facility location. He expressed frustration that he and other neighbors weren't personally notified and might not have seen the public notice which was published in the lo-

cal paper.

O'Neal said, "When you stand on the property, you can't see any houses."

He said, "We're going to do the best we can to eliminate any problems."

One person asked how much product they would need per year. Negus said 120,000 tons of corn stalk per year; 60,000 tons of hog manure per year; and 60,000 tons of chicken litter per year.

Negus said there is no cooking of the manure involved in the process; it involves an organic break-down.

One person asked how long ago this has been a thing. Negus said since the 1980s and improved with technology.

"I think we've seen a real upturn in the United States since 2012," he said.

Also at the WAVE Ag meeting Monday, Dr. Tony Brannon introduced Dr. Laura Ken Hoffman, who gave an update on the Murray State Veterinary School and Alexis Soctt with Spring Aerospace talked about a large-scale drone.