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Forever Communications
4th Quarter Issues Report 2023
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Traveling The Bluegrass

October 2: Kentucky 4-H President Mollie Kate Webb from Barren County talks about National 4-H Week activities in the state. Webb also talks about the core content areas of 4-H programs and the mission to help every member find a place in 4-H.

October 3: Kentucky Farm Bureau President Mark Haney is stepping down after fifteen years of leading the state's largest farm organization. We talk with Mr. Haney about his decision to retire, some of the highlights of his career, and what his plans are for the future.

October 4: Travelin the Bluegrass is on the road again at Grow Appalachia in Berea with the Agritourism Edition partnership with the Kentucky Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Cabinet. Executive Director Candice Mullins talks about the mission of Grow Appalachia and what they are doing to reach farmers in eastern Kentucky.

October 5: We continue the Agritourism Edition stop at Grow Appalachia as we talk with Farmer Development Director Chris McKenzie about how they are working with farmers in eastern Kentucky. McKenzie talks about how they are helping farmers develop their operation and grow it to help provide income for their family.

October 6: The Agritourism Edition heads to the shop in Berea where Kayla Preston and her assistant are designing and building high tunnel greenhouses to help farmers in eastern Kentucky grow their operation. Preston talks about the greenhouse building process, design work, and share other details.

October 9: Emma Hope with the Kentucky Pork Producers talks about the Porktober celebration in Kentucky. She also talks about the number of pork farms across the state and the amount of revenue pork generates for Kentucky farmers.

October 10: Todd County Chamber of Commerce Director Tiffany Groves talks about the 10th annual Todd County Bale Trail. Groves talks about what visitors can see on the bale trail and how they can find a map to see where the bales are located.

October 11: Trigg County Ham Festival volunteer Kerry Fowler, Hancock's Neighborhood Market owner Mallory Lawrence, and Trigg County Chamber of Commerce Membership Director Beth Sumner talk about the first country ham biscuit eating contest. They discuss where the idea originated, who is participating, and how the money raised will be donated to charity.

October 12: Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles says he is excited to lead the Kentucky Community and Technical College System beginning January 1, 2024. Dr. Quarles talks about his goals, the importance of connecting all colleges, and the need to make sure the needs of all students are being served.

October 13: Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles says the recent Raising Hope celebration on the lawn of the state capitol in Frankfort was huge day for Kentucky agriculture. Commissioner Quarles talked about the recognition of farmers and the message that was portrayed during the day's events.

October 16: One of Kentucky's largest farmer-owned cooperatives recently celebrated a profitable year in 2022 with more than \$1 million returned to farmers. We hear comments from Hopkinsville Elevator General Manager Eston Glover, Commonwealth Agri Energy Manager Mick Henderson, and Agri-Chem General Manager David Buchanon about the success of the year.

October 17: The Kentucky Pork Month celebration known as Porktober was highlighted in Frankfort Monday, October 16, when a proclamation was signed by Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles. Emma Hope talks about the importance of the proclamation and when it means to celebrate Pork Month in Kentucky.

October 18: As we continue the Agritourism Edition with the Kentucky Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Cabinet Travelin the Bluegrass learns about the Murray Farmers Market from Murray Main Street Director Deana Smith. We learn about the history of the market, why it was started, and how it has grown.

October 19: As we continue the Agritourism Edition visit at the Murray Farmers Market Deana Smith talks about what the market means to Murray and Calloway County. Smith also talks about the items that can be found at the market and what the market means to vendors and shoppers.

October 20: We round out the Murray Farmers Market episode of the Agritourism Edition as Deana Smith tells us about some of the vendors who have been a part of the market for many years. Smith also says a visit to the farmers market in Murray can provide visitors the chance to experience other parts of Murray and Calloway County.

October 23: Kristie Randolph shares of the story of the Chloe Randolph Foundation that was started in memory of her daughter who was died during a domestic violence incident. Randolph discusses the mission of the foundation, the help provided to victims of domestic violence, and a special event Saturday at the Henderson Community College.

October 24: Tulsa, Oklahoma, homicide detective Jason White, who appears often on the A & E Network show "The First 48" talks about coming to Henderson for a special presentation about domestic violence Saturday, October 28. Detective White talks about what he will share with the audience and the importance of the work being done in Kentucky by Jay and Kristie Randolph through the Chloe Randolph Foundation.

October 25: Irish strawberry farmer Cuirin Weelock and his wife Margaret recently visited Kentucky as the guest of Kentucky Office of Ag Policy Director Brian Lacefield. We learn about Weelock's visit to Kentucky and his strawberry farm in Ireland.

October 26: We continue the visit with Irish strawberry farmer Cuirin Weelock as we discuss his history in farming. Weelock also talks about issues facing farmers in Ireland and the similarities between what American farmers are dealing with.

October 27: The first Trigg County Country Ham Biscuit eating contest at the Country Ham Festival

raised more than \$3,800 for two charities. Organizer Kerry Fowler talks about the results of the contest, who ate the most ham biscuits, and the charities that will benefit.

October 30: Whitley County native Leslie Monhollen, who served as the Kentucky FFA Sentinel in 2022-23, is seeking a National FFA office this week at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. We talked with Monhollen about her FFA career, seeking a national office, and what the organization has meant to her.

October 31: Pelio CEO Nugyen Quach was among a delegation from Vietnam that toured Commonwealth Agri Energy and got a first hand look at agriculture on Hunt farms. Quach talks about the use of ethanol in Vietnam and what he hoped to learn during his visit in Kentucky.

November 1: Laura Knoth and Adam Andrews with the Kentucky Corn Growers and Christian County farmer Brandon Hunt recently hosted a delegation from Vietnam in partnership with the U. S. Grains Council October 19. Knoth, Andrews, and Hunt discuss the importance of the tour and the partnerships that will result.

November 2: Farm Credit Mid America is partnering with Kentucky Venues to be the presenting sponsor of the National Farm Machinery Show's Championship Tractor Pulls in 2024. Regional Manager Brandon Garnett discusses the partnership and what it will mean for customers and partners.

November 3: Kentucky Farm Bureau delegates will review a variety of policy suggestions during the annual meeting that is scheduled for November 29 through December 2 at the Galt House in Louisville. First Vice President Eddie Melton talks about the annual meeting, the resolutions process, and how the resolutions are used.

November 6: Kentucky Venues President David Beck talks about the 50th North American International Livestock Exposition that is underway at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville. Beck talks about the livestock at the show, visitors, and the impact on Kentucky.

November 7: Wayne Knudson talks about the North American International Rodeo that takes place November 9, 10, and 11 at Freedom Hall in the Kentucky Exposition Center. Knudson talks about the competitors, events that take place, and other details about the rodeo.

November 8: Kentucky Venues President David Beck recalls the history of the North American International Livestock Exposition that began 50 years ago. He shares details about how it began, the growth of the livestock expo, and other details.

November 9: Travelin the Bluegrass visits with Vicki Shadrick, Jay Stone, and David Fourqurean who host the Kentucky Ag Matters Podcast that won national honors in August at the National Association of County Agriculture Agents conference in Des Moines, Iowa. The talk about the start of the show and why they feel it is important for Kentucky Agriculture.

November 10: Kent Yeo with the U. S. Grains Council talks about the recent ethanol trade visit by a delegation from Vietnam that include tours of a Kentucky farm, the Commonwealth Agri Energy Ethanol plant in Hopkinsville, and a chance to sample some Kentucky bourbon. Yeo talks about the group and the work of the U. S. Grains Council to open up new markets for U. S. Agriculture products.

November 13: Newly elected Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Jonathon Shell says he is ready to hit the ground running after he takes office in January. We talk with Shell about getting ready to take office, working with Commissioner Ryan Quarles, and his priorities for the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

November 14: Kentucky Venues President David Beck says he is proud to welcome Farm Credit Mid America as the title sponsor of the National Farm Machinery Show Championship Tractor Pull in 2024. Beck talks about the partnership, the importance of the tractor pulls, Farm Credit Mid America's presence at the pulls.

November 15: National Association of Farm Broadcastings Executive Director Tom Brand talks about the 80th annual convention that is taking place this week in Kansas City. Brand highlights the events, special guests, and celebrations that will take place.

November 16: National Association of Farm Broadcasting President-elect Carah Hart, who works for the Brownfield Ag Network, talks about the 2023 NAFB meeting in Kansas City. Hart talks about what will take place, the theme of this year's convention, and the importance of farm broadcasters gathering in Kansas City.

November 17: The President of the National Association of Farm Broadcasting Joe Gill, who is on the radio daily on KASM in Minnesota, says the year has been exciting. Gill talks about his travels as the NAFB President, issues that he has worked on, and what he has enjoyed about serving as President.

November 20: Warren Beeler talks about the 50th annual North American International Livestock Exposition that wrapped up November 16th in Louisville. Beeler talks about livestock numbers and what he enjoys about the North American each year.

November 21: Kentucky Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Cabinet Secretary Lindy Casebier presented the Kentucky Star of the Travel Industry award to the staff and employees of Kentucky State Parks. Casebier talked about their dedication to visitors, their communities, and their service in their time of need.

November 22: Carlisle County farmer Steve Kelly was honored with the Harold Workman Leadership Award during the Kentucky Farm City Luncheon Friday, November 10, at the North American International Livestock Exposition. Kelly talked about his history in farming, how he got started, what they grow, and why farming is important to his family.

November 23: On this Thanksgiving Day edition of Travelin the Bluegrass we hear the story of an "Any Soldier" letter that was received by a Kentucky veteran more than 30 years ago while serving in the Gulf War. Karle Johnson relays the story and shares about the friendship he has made over 30 years.

November 24: Kentucky Farm Bureau delegates will consider several policy recommendations during the annual meeting November 28 through December 1 at the Galt House in Louisville. First Vice President Eddie Melton talks about priorities that will be discussed and voted on.

November 27: Kentucky Farm Bureau Communications Director Todd Bright previews the Kentucky Farm Bureau Annual Meeting that will be held at the Galt House in Louisville November 29 through December 2. Bright talks about events taking place, officer elections, and special guests.

November 28: Kentucky Farm Bureau Communications Director Todd Bright says some of the top youth and young farmers will compete in two contests Thursday, November 30. Bright talks about the discussion meet and the outstanding farm bureau youth contests and how the competition develop new leaders in agriculture.

November 29: Kentucky Farm Bureau President Mark Haney talks about his last annual meeting as President, some of the special guests that are expected to attend, and the change in leadership. He also talks about some of the highlights of his time as President of the organization.

November 30: United States Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack discuss a new program that the USDA rolled out on November 16 during a visit at the National Association of Farm Broadcastings annual meeting. He also previewed the 2024 trade mission schedule for the USDA.

December 1: Kentucky Pork Producers Executive Director Niki Ellis says excitement is building for the annual meeting in January. Ellis talks about some of the events that will take place, the importance of the meeting, and made a plea for new members to attend the meeting at the Sloane Convention Center in Bowling Green.

December 4: A Caldwell FFA project paved the way for a Christmas tree farm for Hannah Greenfield Riley and her family. Riley talks about how they got started, what type of trees they sell, and Kirk Greenfield talks about how they were able to bless neighbors through the farm after the December 2021 tornado that hit Caldwell County.

December 5: Former United States Secretary of Agriculture John Block says the state of agriculture in the United States is good in spite of some weather challenges. Secretary Block discusses agriculture, crafting of the farm bill, and working under the leadership of President Ronald Reagan.

December 6: Farm Service Agency Administrator Zach Ducheneaux says the agency he oversees is focused on making sure all segments of agriculture are served. Administrator Ducheneaux talks about how the FSA is serving farmers, programs available, and provides other details about what they do.

December 7: Travelin the Bluegrass makes a stop at J.D. Country Milk in Logan County where we visit with owner Willis Schrock. We talk with Schrock about how they started their milk business and how it has grown over the years.

December 8: We continue the conversation with J.D. Country Milk owner Willis Schrock as we discuss the family involvement in the milk business. Schrock also talks about the growth of their business, where their milk is sold, and provides other details.

December 11: New Kentucky Farm Bureau President Eddie Melton says he is looking forward to leading the state's largest farm organization. Melton talks about some of his priorities as President of Kentucky Farm Bureau and the new leadership team that was elected.

December 12: United States Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell says he remains focused on national security, a new farm bill, and securing the southern border of the United States. Leader

McConnell discussed those and other issues with Kentucky Farm Bureau during the annual meeting in early December.

December 13: University of Kentucky Agriculture Economist Dr. Will Snell is predicting agriculture could net farmers more than 8 billion dollars in 2023. Dr. Snell ag income projections, how they compare to 2022, the leaders in ag income, and other details.

December 14: Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner-elect Jonathon Shell says his transition is preparing for the administration change January 1. Shell talked about his focus during the transition and his commitment to serve Kentucky Agriculture.

December 15: American Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall says county Farm Bureau Presidents have a critical role in Kentucky Farm Bureau. Duvall talked about their responsibilities, their ability to help their community, and the importance of the leadership they provide.

December 18: University of Kentucky Agriculture Economist Dr. Grant Gardner says grain crop farmers are wrapping up a good year. Dr. Gardner talks about how corn, wheat, and soybeans fared in 2023 and provided an outlook for 2024.

December 19: Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles says he is proud of his two terms as Commissioner. Dr. Quarles recapped his terms in office during the Kentucky Farm Bureau Annual meeting in late November.

December 20: The Kentucky Corn Growers CORE Leadership group recently toured Arizona and southern California to learn about the challenges faced by farmers in the southwest United States. Christian County Agriculture Extension Agent Matt Futtrell is a part of the class and talks about some of the lessons they learned during the trip.

December 21: Murray State University Breathitt Veterinary Center Director Dr. Debbie Reed says Santa Claus reindeer are ready for their worldwide flight on Christmas Eve. Dr. Reed talks about testing they perform and some magic they find when doing their annual study of samples supplied by Santa's niece.

December 22: As we get ready for Christmas Monday, we visit with Mrs. Santa Claus at the North Pole. Mrs. Claus talks about the children this year, what Santa has been doing to get ready, and why she enjoys visiting with children.

December 25: On this Christmas Day edition of Travelin the Bluegrass we share the thoughts of my family with each of you. Jennie and Susan Watts and I talked about what makes Christmas special for us this year.

December 26: Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles wraps up his two terms in office that he detailed while speaking with Kentucky Farm Bureau members at the annual meeting in late November. Quarles discusses Kentucky Proud, the Ag Development Board, and work that still needs to be done.

December 27: Kentucky Farm Bureau President Mark Haney recalls some of the highlights of his 15

years leading Kentucky Farm Bureau. Haney summed up his presidency with a focus on five key points.

December 28: The leaders of Kentucky's youth organizations are busy leading the organizations this year. We hear updates from Kentucky FFA President Caroline Grath from Fayette, Kentucky 4-H President Mollie Kate Webb from Barren County, and Kentucky FCCLA President Maura Hartman from Mason County.

December 29: American Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall shared a story about his son's experience in Operation Iraqi Freedom and how was able to comfort his son. Duvall used the message to thank veterans for their service.