

1st Quarter Issues Report 2024
WCLU
GLASGOW, KY
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Traveling the Bluegrass:

January 1: Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Jason Howell discussed priorities for the Kentucky General Assembly session during the Kentucky Farm Bureau meeting in December. Senator Howell says the issues include the two-year budget, roads and bridges, and more.

January 2: Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Jason Howell is focused improving river ports in Kentucky. He says Kentucky spends too little on riverports that are a critical part of the state's transportation infrastructure.

January 3: University of Kentucky Agriculture Economist Dr. Kenny Burdine talks about livestock in 2023. He discussed equine, dairy cattle, poultry, and beef cattle and how each fared in 2023.

January 4: Boone's Butcher Shop in Nelson County was honored as the 2023 Agribusiness of the Year during the National Farm City Luncheon at the North American International Livestock Exposition. Allison Porteus talks about her grandfather starting the business, what they do for farmers and the community, and what the honor means to them.

January 5: Matt Chadwick talks about Chadwick Sheep Company that he and his wife own and operate in Calloway County. Chadwick describes their operation, how they got started, and products they sell at the Murray Farmers Market.

January 8: The Kentucky Cattleman's Association Annual Convention will kick off Thursday, January 11, at the Central Bank Center in Lexington with the annual Beef Efficiency Conference. KCA Executive Director Dave Maples talks about the Beef Efficiency Conference and the opening day of the Kentucky Cattleman's Convention.

January 9: Kentucky Cattleman's Executive Director Dave Maples talks about day two of the Kentucky Cattleman's Convention that is taking place this week at Central Bank Center in Lexington. Maples talks about some of the speakers, topics that will be covered, junior cattleman activities, and this year's Cattleman's Hall of Fame inductees.

January 10: Case IH Territory Sales Manager Ben Werner from Todd County talks about a recent appearance on RFD-TV's Live to Farm Show with Kevin Kalb. He also discusses the partnership between Kalb and Case IH and showcasing Kentucky Agriculture through the partnership.

January 11: Pat Walrath from Ohio had a surprise when she visited the North American International Livestock Exposition with her family in November. Walrath saw a 50-year old photo of herself presenting a banner at the first North American during a special display commemorating the anniversary of the show.

January 12: Matt and Mollie Adams from Hardin County was recognized in December as the Kentucky Farm Bureau Outstanding Young Farm Family. The Adams family talks about winning the honor, what it means to them, and share details about their farming operation.

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January 22: Murray State University Hutson School of Agriculture Dean Dr. Brian Parr says there is a great lineup for the 19th annual Soybean Promotion Day. Dr. Parr says there will be important discussions for Soybean farmers with This Week in Agribusiness host Mike Pearson and Dr. Katherine Stowe from the United Soybean Board.

January 23: Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Jonathon Shell says he is excited to be on the job and looking forward to leading the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. Commissioner Shell talks about his work with the KDA staff and their commitment to serving agriculture.

January 24: Kentucky Cattleman's Association past President Andy Bishop says it was a pleasure leading the state's cattle farmers during the past year. Bishop discussed some of his highlights during the past year and the message he shared with Kentucky cattle farmers.

January 25: Not only is past Kentucky Cattleman's Association President Andy Bishop an agriculture banker, but he is also a cattle farmer. Bishop discusses his cattle farm, his work in agriculture lending, and his future service leading the National Cattleman's Beef Board.

January 26: Kentucky Women in Agriculture representative Jessica Wilkerson says the organization is dedicated to helping unite women involving in agriculture and farming across the state. Wilkerson talks about the organization, the mission, and some of the events the organization is involved with.

January 29: The Kentucky Pork Producers are entering into a unique partnership with the Tennessee Pork Producers Association. Kentucky's Executive Director Niki Ellis talks about the partnership and provides some highlights from the annual meeting that took place Friday, January 19, at the Sloan Convention Center in Bowling Green.

January 30: University of Kentucky Grain and Forage Center of Excellence Director Dr. Chad Lee says the 2024 Winter Wheat Meeting will feature a variety of information including an update from Rick Siemer of Siemer Milling Company. Dr. Lee says the meeting takes place Thursday, February 1, at the Bruce Convention Center in Hopkinsville.

January 31: University of Kentucky's Dr. Travis Legleiter says the 2nd annual Crop Health Conference will return to the Corvette Museum in Bowling Green Thursday, February 8, with a host of speakers covering crop health topics. Dr. Legleiter talks about the speakers, the theme of the crop health conference, and how to register for the event.

February 1: Emily Cleaver with the U. S. Forest Service says the annual Bison auction returns to Land Between the Lakes Saturday, February 3. Cleaver talks about the bison that will be sold, why the auction is taking place, how to participate, and the success of the elk and bison prairie.

February 2: Kentucky Junior Cattleman's Association Vice-President Emily Tabor talks about the association and the membership. Tabor also talks about some of the activities in 2023 and some events planned for 2024 for junior cattleman across the state.

February 5: Hutson School of Agriculture Dean Dr. Brian Parr and Murray State University President Bob Jackson say plans for a veterinary medicine school at Murray State are moving forward in the Kentucky General Assembly. Dr. Parr and President Jackson discuss House Bill 400, the importance of the legislation, and the need to train veterinarians in the state.

February 6: Emma Hope says the Kentucky Pork Producers will have a strong presence at the National Farm Machinery Show for the second year. Hope talks about where visitors can find their booth, new food items at the show, and some farm machinery items they will be selling.

February 7: Not only will the Kentucky Pork Producers have a booth at the National Farm Machinery Show this year, but they will also host a special farmer advocate training session Friday, February 16th. Emma Hope says the session will be a chance for farmers to learn about how to share the message of agriculture.

February 8: Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Jonathon Shell recently presented the Raising Hope Award to Anne Meade at the 2024 Kentucky Commodity Conference. Commissioner Shell recognized Meade for her work with the organization that is dedicated to helping farmers around the state.

February 9: Kentucky Soybean Association President Adam Hendricks recently presented the distinguished service award to former Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles for his eight years of service to agriculture. Commissioner Quarles thanked agriculture for their support during his two terms in office at the Kentucky Commodity Conference.

February 12: Kentucky Venues President David Beck says the 58th National Farm Machinery Show will showcase the latest technology and developments in agriculture. Beck says the Kentucky Exposition Center team is ready to host farmers and members of the agribusiness community from around the world for the annual show.

February 13: Not only is the Kentucky Exposition team ready to host the National Farm Machinery Show, but Kentucky Venues President David Beck also says 55th Championship Tractor Pull will fill Freedom Hall. Beck says they are proud to welcome a new partnership with Farm Credit Mid-America to the Championship Tractor Pull this year.

February 14: Seimer Milling President Rick Seimer talked about the importance of Kentucky farmers to the soft red winter wheat industry during the recent UK Winter Wheat Meeting in Hopkinsville. Dr. Chad Lee also talks about the Wheat Science Award to retired Todd County Extension Agent Curt Judy.

February 15: McLean County Agriculture Extension Agent David Fourqurean talks about the second annual Cowman's Kind Bull sale that will take place in March. Fourqurean talks about the quality of the bulls, where they are from, and how potential buyers can learn more.

February 16: Mercer County FFA President Emily Chunglo has found her place in the leadership of her chapter and her region. Chunglo talks about her role in the FFA, what she has learned, and how her FFA experience will help her.

February 19: Farm Credit Mid-America is returning more than 250 million dollars to farmer-owners from the 2023 fiscal year. Chief Lending Officer Tara Durbin made the announcement Wednesday, February 14, at the National Farm Machinery Show.

February 20: More than fifty Kentucky farmers joined with others from the Farm Credit Mid-America service area for the 2024 Advocate Council at the Marriot in Louisville. Kentucky Regional Manager Brandon Garnett talks about advocate council and what those on hand for the event had a chance to learn.

February 21: Farm Credit Mid-America Kentucky Regional Manager David Alben says there was a significant investment in all parts of the state in 2023. Alben talks about what the farmer-owned lending cooperative supported and the communities that were impacted.

February 22: Kentucky Farm Bureau county Presidents and Vice-presidents gathered in Louisville February 13th and 14th for the annual Presidents Conference. State President Eddie Melton talks about President's Conference, the importance of county presidents, and the mission of the conference.

February 23: Mercer County FFA President Emily Chunglo plans to use her voice in agriculture to start a podcast aimed at connection Christian women in agriculture. Emily says her podcast will be named "Faith in the Field" and will be a way to connect woman with a purpose.

February 26: H & R Agri-Power's Wayne Hunt says the National Farm Machinery Show allows his employees from the company's 22 locations to connect with their customers from across the country. Hunt talks about the impact of the show, bringing the company's employees together, and his history with the National Farm Machinery Show.

February 27: Joe Arnold says now is the time to nominate businesses, organizations, or destinations in Kentucky Living's Best in Kentucky contest. Arnold talks about how to nominate, when to vote, and the importance of the contest across the state.

February 28: Young farmers from across the state will gather this weekend in Madisonville for the Kentucky Young Farmers Convention. Young Farmer Advisor Troy Muse says the annual gathering features some important speakers, a lady's program, and some annual awards.

February 29: Kentucky FFA Foundation Executive Director Sheldon McKinney says the organization is launching a new website designed to connect graduating FFA members across the state with potential employers. McKinney says businesses and upcoming graduates can find out more at kyffaworks.org.

March 1: Kentucky native Brian Pennington says the Fellowship of Christian Farmers International is using walking sticks as a way to connect with visitors each year at the National Farm Machinery Show and other events. Pennington, who grew up in Prestonsburg, says their group hands out several walking sticks each year in return for a few minutes to share their Christian message.

March 4: National Agriculture Statistics Services David Knopf says Kentucky saw some gain and some losses during the last five years. Knopf breaks down the 2022 Census of Agriculture that was released in February and talks about the impact on Kentucky.

March 5: Kentucky based Lonestar Rodeo Company is kicking off another season that will take them across the eastern United States. Lonestar's Rachel Boyd talks about the rodeo season, the clowns, specialty acts and other highlights of this year's rodeo season.

March 6: The Kentucky Heifer Initiative partnership between Farm Credit Mid-America and the Kentucky Cattleman's Association is helping Sophia Smith purchase a heifer to raise on the family farm. Smith talks about her essay, her role on the farm, and what kind of heifer she plans to buy.

March 7: Kentucky Junior Cattleman's Association member Nate Crumley says he wanting to use the money from the Farm Credit Mid-America Junior Heifer Initiative to purchase a black Hereford heifer to add to his show string. Crumley talks about applying for the grant, his involvement in the farm, and what he is looking for in a heifer.

March 8: Senior Farm Credit Mid-America Heifer Initiative winner McKenzie Bell says she became interested in applying for the grant after taking a class at the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture. Bell talks about the breed of heifer she plans to buy and how the heifer will expand the stocker operation on their farm.

March 11: Commonwealth Agri Energy is celebrating 20 years of using corn from Kentucky farmers to produce ethanol, corn oil, distillers' dry grain, and carbon dioxide. General Manager Mick Henderson talks about the beginning of the plant, the growth over the years, and the changes in perception since the start.

March 12: A cattle farmer from Fredonia was recently recognized by the Kentucky Gelvieg Association for his dedication to the industry after starting with one heifer when he was in the eighth grade. Brian Gill talks about his start in the cattle business, about the breed he raises, and how his herd has grown.

March 13: A farm family from Glassgow recently had the top selling heifer at the Kentucky Gelvieg say at the Kentucky Farm Bureau Beef Expo. Carrie Tillman-Derossett, who is also the Logan County 4-H Agent, talks about the heifer they sold, their start in the cattle business, and the legacy of their farm.

March 14: Morgan Dietrich with Case IH talks about the news suspension system that will soon be available on their quad-track line of tractors. Dietrich talks about the development of the suspension system, how will improve comfort for the operator, and when the new line of tractors will be available.

March 15: Kentucky Pork Producers President Eric Heard says the new partnership with the Tennessee Pork Producers Association will be a huge win for both states. Heard talks about the aspects of the partnership, how both states gain, and the importance of sharing the message about pork.

March 18: We meet Jackson County farmer Eddie Neely who raises cattle and hay on his farm. Neely talks about his history in farming, how they got started, and other details about his heritage in agriculture.

March 19: Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Jonathon Shell says he is focused on several priorities during his first term. Shell discusses the priorities, how he wants to accomplish them, and the reaction of farmers and the agriculture community to his goals.

March 20: As Commonwealth Agri Energy celebrates twenty years, General Manager Mick Henderson talks about the products made from corn from farmers in Kentucky and Tennessee. Henderson talks about the development of the products as the plant grew over the past 20 years.

March 21: As we celebrate National Agriculture Week we also celebrate women in agriculture as we meet Webster County Agriculture Extension Agent Vickie Shadrick. Vickie talks about her career as an extension agent and her passion for serving farmers and the agriculture community.

March 22: Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Jonathon Shell wraps up the week by talking about the importance of agriculture in Kentucky. Commissioner Shell discusses his excitement for serving agriculture and what he wants to focus on.

March 25: Farm Credit Mid-America's Senior Vice-President of Agricultural Lending Mark Vidourek talks about Patronage week for the cooperative. Vidourek discusses hand-delivering checks, getting to know farmers, and the diversity of agriculture in Kentucky.

March 26: Jake Harvath from Colorado is making his way across 30 states to celebrate the importance of wild mustangs. Harvath was recently in Kentucky and talks about his project called "Year of the Mustang" and what he hopes to accomplish.

March 27: Not only is Commonwealth Agri Energy in Hopkinsville producing ethanol, corn oil, distillers grain, and carbon dioxide, it venturing into other products. General Manager Mick Henderson says they quickly began making hand sanitizer when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, which led to other products.

March 28: One of the highlights of Patronage Week for Farm Credit Mid-America Regional Vice President of Agricultural Lending Brad Burke from Maysville is handing farmers a check. Burke talks about Patronage Week and what farmers tell him they plan to do with their checks.

March 29: Christian County farmer Brandon Hunt was recently recognized as Farmer of the Year during the Christian County Salute To Agriculture breakfast. The award was presented to committee member Brandon Garnett, with Hunt noting he was humbled by the honor.