

From Governor
ERNIE FLETCHER



Kentucky farmers continue to make history as they transform our agricultural economy from one based on tobacco to one that is economically strong and diversified. During the six short years of Kentucky's agricultural diversification effort, we have developed new opportunities for our farm families that were not even dreamed of a decade ago.

This historic effort has redefined agriculture in the Commonwealth. The financial resources of the Agricultural Development Fund play a vital role in providing the seed capital for this transformation and funding for the education required to make this a one-of-a-kind success story.

I have maintained my commitment to the agricultural community by providing 50 percent of the Master Settlement Agreement funding to the Agricultural Development Fund. Kentucky was the only state to do this, making us truly the envy of other tobacco-producing states. These resources have helped us create the foundation for a strong agriculture economy, but we have only begun the journey.

This past year also saw tremendous growth in the Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corporation loan programs for production agriculture and value-added projects. These funds are assisting farmers and entrepreneurs in the development of infrastructure that is needed on our farms. The projects from this program will add value to Kentucky's agriculture commodities for many years to come.

We see Kentucky farmers take the agricultural commodities of today and turn them into the opportunities of tomorrow. Kentucky's agricultural leaders and producers are an invaluable resource as we continue to address the challenges and opportunities presented to Kentucky agriculture. We have embarked on a long-term project that demands the continued commitment of all involved to make Kentucky agriculture the best it can be.

From **LELAND E. BROWN**
Director, Kentucky Field Office
National Agricultural Statistics Service



We are pleased to present the 2005-2006 edition of *Kentucky Agricultural Statistics*. This publication represents a cooperative effort between USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service Kentucky Field Office and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, and contains current statistics for the state's agricultural industry. NASS has been providing vital information to producers and agribusinesses for over 140 years, with a commitment based on the belief that agriculture plays a crucial role to the nation and also to Kentucky.

The voluntary cooperation of thousands of farmers and agri-businesses, and the dedicated efforts of the

From Agriculture Commissioner
RICHIE FARMER



The future course of Kentucky agriculture is being charted today. Farmgate receipts in 2005 were \$3.97 billion, the second-highest total on record. Economists say 2006 income may break the 2004 record of \$4.13 billion.

What's really interesting is how these higher levels of farm income are being achieved.

Equine income was up in 2005 while tobacco income was down in the first year after the quota buyout. Poultry, cattle, corn and soybeans remained strong. Income from sheep, vegetables and floriculture showed solid growth. Kentucky has rapidly become the fifth-leading goat-producing state in the nation.

Kentucky is emerging as a national leader in the biofuels industry. The Commonwealth Agri-Energy ethanol plant in Hopkinsville made a profit in its first year of business and has already expanded. Owensboro Grain is building a biodiesel plant with a capacity of 50 million gallons per year. These facilities and others will provide strong, stable markets for Kentucky corn and soybean growers.

These and other initiatives received funding from Kentucky's share of tobacco settlement funds. The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board has invested more than \$200 million in the future of Kentucky agriculture. One of the most significant investments was a \$3.3 million grant awarded in August 2006 to Kentucky Proud, the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's farm marketing program. KDA has used previous tobacco settlement dollars to mount an aggressive campaign to establish Kentucky Proud as the symbol of fresh, great-tasting food products made by Kentuckians who work hard for their families, their customers and their communities. The new funding affirms we are on the right track, and for that I thank my hard-working staff, the good people at Allied Food Marketers, and, of course, the farmers.

The information in *Kentucky Agricultural Statistics 2005-2006* paints a picture of an industry in transition. I hope you will find it informative and useful as you chart your own course for the years to come.

Kentucky Field Office staff in compiling the collected data, are essential for us to maintain reliable facts regarding the changing face of Kentucky agriculture. These statistics are an important part of evaluating the success of the Commonwealth's efforts to diversify from tobacco.

Special thanks also goes to the dedicated staff of field and telephone enumerators who have spent many hours collecting data. These enumerators are our goodwill ambassadors to Kentucky's agricultural community.

This book is only one of many ways to receive statistical reports on Kentucky agriculture. Please visit our Web site at www.nass.usda.gov/ky and view all our reports there. Reports can be delivered free to your e-mail address, or hardcopy reports are available for a small fee.

Please contact us any time with your questions, comments and requests for information. The staff of the Kentucky Field Office is dedicated to serving the agricultural data needs of all users.

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Structure and Programs 2007

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KDA is pitching Kentucky quality to consumers in hopes of hitting a homer for Kentucky farm families. Commissioner Richie Farmer leads the celebration of Kentucky foods and food products at Applebee's Park in Lexington before a standing-room-only crowd of more than 9,000. Baseball legend Roger Clemens was there, too.

The Year in Agriculture 2006

Tom Sloan



Kentucky PROUD

The Kentucky Proud movement is gaining ground all over the Commonwealth.

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture's familiar blue, green and red logo has shown up at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Applebee's Park in Lexington, supermarkets, farmers' markets, garden centers, and restaurants.

Kentucky Proud is helping Kentucky farmers and businesses **develop new markets** for their products. The campaign raises awareness of delicious and nutritious Kentucky foods made by Kentuckians.

The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board awarded the Kentucky Proud campaign \$3.3 million in funding in August 2006. KDA and its Kentucky Proud partner, Allied Food Marketers of Louisville, will use the funding to **continue and expand the program over the next two years.**



"More Kentuckians are finding out what many knew all along – when it comes to Kentucky Proud, nothing else is close," Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer said. "Kentuckians produce some of the best food you can find anywhere, and they do it close to home. KDA has worked hard to get Kentucky Proud products to the consumer, and our efforts are paying off for Kentucky's farmers."

One satisfied Kentucky Proud partner is Remke Markets. The employee-owned northern Kentucky grocery chain has stocked more than 250 Kentucky Proud products in its seven Kentucky stores since December 2005. "It exceeded my expectations," Eric Rabe, president of Remke Markets, said of its holiday promotion. "This area is eager to have Kentucky Proud products here. **People want them.**"



Rick and Tubby find themselves on the same team when boosting Kentucky Proud freshness.

In the following months Remke agreed to sell pork products from Kentucky Heritage Meats of Washington County and salsa from northern Kentucky producer Millard Long under its private label. Remke sold 5,000 jars of Long's salsa in its first 21 days.

KDA and Allied put together a deal to get Long's product into Wal-Mart in Somerset as Somernites Salsa. Then they helped Long and Winchester soft drink bottler Ale-8-One develop a salsa using Ale-8-One concentrate. The product made its debut at the Mount Sterling Court Day festival in October 2006.

The success of the Kentucky Heritage Meats and Millard Long products **filters down to more Kentucky farmers.** Kentucky Heritage Meats gets its pork from a dozen central Kentucky hog farmers, including company President John Medley. Long relies on area growers for tomatoes for his salsa.

A three-year marketing campaign with **coaches Rick Pitino and Tubby Smith** launched in early 2006. The college basketball coaches recorded a television spot and are appearing in print advertisements for Kentucky Proud.

The Kentucky Proud logo received unexpected exposure when pitcher Roger Clemens launched his major league comeback at Applebee's Park on June 6, 2006, before a standing-room-only crowd and a national television audience on ESPN. The future Hall of Famer's return coincided with Farmers/Dairy Night at the park.

The state has taken other steps to help Kentucky food producers grow and prosper. The Kentucky General Assembly passed, and Governor Ernie Fletcher signed, a bill in the 2006 General Assembly

that **requires state agencies to buy Kentucky farm products** if the products are available and meet state quality and price requirements. The Kentucky Department of Parks had purchased **nearly \$106,000 worth of Kentucky Proud foods** by mid-summer 2006, aided by state regulations adopted in 2005 that allow the state resorts to buy Kentucky Proud meat and dairy products.

"We have had more positive input from our customers about Kentucky Proud than anything we have done in the last couple of years," Rabe said. "Our customers enjoy the products, but they also feel good about buying things from people in the state."

Ted Sloan



Kentucky Proud means fresh, high quality, great tasting food made close to home.

Jim Tammell



An exciting and vital new role

BIOFUELS

Kentucky agriculture is playing a leading role in efforts to provide motor fuel alternatives.

Ground was broken in May 2006 for a **biodiesel** facility in Owensboro that will generate up to **50 million gallons** per year. Biodiesel is produced by mixing soybean oil with diesel fuel.

When complete in mid-2007, the Owensboro Grain facility will use **50 million bushels of mostly Kentucky-grown soybeans a year.**

Kentucky has two other biodiesel plants: Griffin Industries' two-million-gallon plant in northern Kentucky, and a smaller plant near Sturgis owned by entrepreneur Andy Sprague.

Biodiesel lacks the offending "diesel smell", and substantially reduces unburned hydrocarbons and particles. Using "B-100" (100 percent biodiesel) reduces carbon dioxide emissions by 75 percent over conventional petroleum diesel. It fuels any diesel engine with few, if any, modifications.

Ethanol, alcohol fuel made from corn, is also better for the environment than conventional gasoline. Because of its high octane rating, it is currently being blended with unleaded gasoline as an octane enhancer to replace the banned ground water contaminant MTBE (methyl tertiary butyl ether). Ethanol does not leave gummy deposits in a car's fuel system, is biodegradable, and burns more cleanly, reducing carbon monoxide emissions by as much as 30 percent.

Kentucky joins Midwest "corn belt" states such as Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota, and South Dakota in ethanol production. Kentucky has **two ethanol plants**: a 33-million-gallon operation in Hopkinsville and a small facility in Louisville.

Hopkinsville's Commonwealth Agri-Energy has been the picture of success since it made its first shipment of ethanol in 2004. Surrounded by miles of flat, fertile Christian County farmland that grows most of the corn the plant needs, CAE is owned by about 3,000 area farmer-investors.

Ted Sloan



Commissioner Farmer took part in groundbreaking for the Owensboro Grain biodiesel plant.

The plant expanded in 2005 from its original 20-million-gallon yearly capacity and, because of demand, currently pumps three million more gallons than its planned 30-million-gallon capacity. There is already talk of expanding the plant to 40 or 50 million gallons and using non-corn sources, such as switch grass or wood chips.

Kentucky ranks **19th in the nation in ethanol production** at 35.4 million gallons annually, according to the Renewable Fuels Association. That total will more than double in 2007, when Bluegrass Bioenergy LLC's new plant in Fulton will begin producing 55 million gallons per year. Agri Fuels LLC is expected to break ground in early 2007 on another 55-million-gallon plant near Brandenburg.

The Fulton facility is one of 115 ethanol plants under construction across the nation. Many of these will have annual capacity of 100 million gallons or more, says the American Farm Bureau Federation. By 2010, U.S. ethanol production could replace 311,000 barrels of imported crude per day – the equivalent of one large oil tanker per week.

Todd Barlow, executive director of the Kentucky Corn Growers Association, said the Hopkinsville ethanol plant has added a minimum 10 cents per bushel to the price of corn for producers in a 50- to 70-mile radius.

Still Kentucky's signature industry

EQUINE

The Seattle Slew monument at Three Chimneys Farm near Versailles exemplifies Kentuckians' love of the horse.

Ted Sloan



KDA took decisive action to contain outbreaks of equine disease in 2005, and Governor Ernie Fletcher enacted an incentive program for thoroughbred breeders

near the end of the year. These efforts helped Kentucky's world-famous equine industry to grow and prosper through 2005 and 2006.

"Horses, mules and stud fees accounted for more than \$1 billion in farmgate receipts in Kentucky in 2005," Commissioner Farmer said. "The equine industry generates more than 31,800 jobs and an estimated \$1.77 billion in economic activity in the Commonwealth. Kentucky truly is the Horse Capital of the World."

Kentucky's **thoroughbred** breeding industry appeared headed for another banner year in 2006 after the Keeneland September Yearling Sale set a world record with gross sales of nearly

\$400 million. The **standardbred** industry dedicated sales tax revenues from stud fees to race purses, which was expected to help that industry rebound.

KDA's Division of Animal Health acts to **control and eradicate** contagious, infectious and communicable **animal diseases** in the state. The division's programs are charged with preventing the importation into the state of equine infectious anemia, equine viral arteritis, contagious equine metritis and other equine diseases.

During 2005, Kentucky State Veterinarian Robert C. Stout, DVM, imposed quarantines to contain outbreaks of strangles at Churchill Downs' Trackside training facility in March, equine herpes virus at Churchill Downs in May, strangles at Ellis Park in July, and equine herpes virus at Turfway Park in December.

During most of 2005, Animal Health officials ensured that horses from areas of the western U.S. affected by vesicular stomatitis did not enter the Commonwealth.

The **thoroughbred breeder incentive program** was enacted by Gov. Fletcher through emergency regulation in December 2005 to maintain Kentucky's standing in the thoroughbred industry in the face of competition from other states. Over 10,000 covered mares were registered to the breeders' incentive fund for the 2006 breeding season, the Kentucky Horse Racing Authority reported.

KHRA said **Kentucky's share of the U.S. thoroughbred crop grew more than 37 percent** from 1994 to 2004, and the state has 28.7 percent of the total U.S. crop. The number of thoroughbred mares bred in the state increased by 2.6 percent from 2004 to 2005, the report said.

The grower houses at Stirman Adams' poultry operation in McLean County.

Gwynn Beck - Kentucky Geological Survey



Not chicken feed for Kentucky towns

POULTRY

Chicken is big business in rural Kentucky communities benefiting from the growth of the poultry industry.

Kentucky farmers took in \$813.8 million from sales of broilers, eggs and other poultry in 2005. Only horses and stud fees generated more farmgate receipts in the state. Income from broilers alone topped \$704.3 million, 2 percent higher than in 2004.

"Poultry has grown into an \$800 million industry in Kentucky," Agriculture Commissioner Richie Farmer said. "Contract broiler production has enabled many Kentucky farmers to prosper. Their success has a ripple effect on the economies of many Kentucky towns."

Perhaps no community has benefited more from the explosive growth of Kentucky's poultry industry than McLean County. The western Kentucky community is home to a Tyson hatchery near Beech Grove and a Perdue feed mill near Livermore. Perdue has a processing plant in Cromwell in Ohio County, and Tyson has a facility in Robards in Henderson County. A Tyson feed mill is located north of Sebree in Webster County. Kentucky also is home to a Cagle's Keystone poultry processing facility in Albany and a Pilgrim's Pride plant in Mayfield.

McLean County Judge-Executive Larry Whitaker said the local poultry industry has made it possible for young farmers to come back to the area or stay there and run their family farms.

"Poultry has allowed farmers to stay on 15 to 20 acres and have an income comparable to a large row crop operation," Whitaker said.

The poultry industry has created demand for construction, equipment sales, supplies and other businesses.

Whitaker said farmers use chicken litter in their fields to cut their fertilizer costs. Local banker Charlie Mann said the nutritional value of chicken litter is \$35 to \$40 per ton, and most grower houses generate an average of 200 tons of litter a year.

The World Chicken Festival every September celebrates Kentucky's heritage in the poultry industry. More than 250,000 people flock to London for the four-day event.

At the festival, fried chicken is cooked in the world's largest stainless steel skillet, which is 10 feet, 6 inches in diameter, weighs 700 pounds, and can cook up to 600 quarters of chicken at a time.

System protects animal health

DEEF



Sales of cattle and calves ranked third among Kentucky agricultural commodities in 2005, trailing only horses and poultry. Kentucky's beef cattle industry took in \$561.3 million during 2005.

One way to insure that cash receipts stay healthy is to **prevent animal disease outbreaks**. One cow in Washington state infected with bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), or mad cow disease, in December 2003 led to the disruption of beef exports, which affected prices. Japan and South Korea sporadically began importing American beef in mid-2006.

KDA's Office of the State Veterinarian strives to ensure the health of Kentucky's livestock and poultry. Thanks to the efforts of the state veterinarian's office, Kentucky has been brucellosis-free since 1997 and tuberculosis-free since 1987.

Animal disease outbreaks around the globe have greatly intensified public interest in a **national animal**

identification system (NAIS) to protect livestock health. KDA has made this a top priority.

The long-term goal is to establish a system that can identify within 48 hours all premises and animals that have had direct contact with a targeted disease. To meet this goal, KDA is working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the universities and industry to develop a practical but comprehensive infrastructure that collects and records information about the movement of animals.

Premises registration, currently voluntary, is the first step in implementing the NAIS. USDA sees premises and animal identification someday becoming a national mandate, as some states have already legislated.

"The state has invested millions of dollars in recent years to make the beef cattle industry even stronger by improving genetics and forages," Commissioner Farmer said. "Kentucky is well suited for beef cattle, and the industry's future here is bright."

Diversification success story

GOATS

Kentucky Goat Producers Association



Goats represent Kentucky's fastest-growing agricultural industry and one of its leading diversification options, with an estimated 5,000 Kentucky farms in goat production.

Kentucky's goat population in 2006 stood at 74,000, six percent higher than 2005 and **fifth highest in the nation**.

The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board has funded the **Kentucky Sheep and Goat Development Office** to promote the industries, coordinate producer education, and monitor state and national issues.

Goats were included for the first time in the 4-H/FFA Sale of Champions at the 2006 Kentucky State Fair.

KDA has led the way in establishing **regional goat markets and Tel-O-Auctions** to spur goat sales. KADB has appropriated more than \$3.2 million to goat diversification programs.

Speaking in a unified voice

DAIRY

KDA has been highly involved in the state's dairy industry with the creation of the **Kentucky Dairy Development Council.**

"Without the KDA's support, particularly Eunice Schlappi, we could not have operated for this first year and a half," said KDDC Executive Director Roger Thomas. "The leadership that Eunice and others have displayed has been invaluable."

Approaching its second anniversary in 2007, KDDC has already made "a tremendous difference," said Schlappi, KDA dairy marketing specialist. "It has united all facets of the dairy industry, from producers to allied industries to universities and government officials."

"What sets this organization apart from any other dairy program ever in Kentucky," Thomas said, "is the leadership understood that to benefit dairy farmers we'd need the help and support of all of the industry."

KDDC first discussed an industry-wide strategic plan, incentives for increased production and quality, and developing a Young Dairyman leadership and education program. KDDC held 15 barn meetings across the state on improving production and quality.

KDDC's Dairy Improvement Program fields four traveling consultants who work with dairy producers and encourage farmers to form new associations.

One of the fastest-growing parts of the industry, statewide and nationwide, is **organic dairy**. Organic milk is free of hormones banned in Europe and Canada. Last August, Kentucky's first two certified organic dairies started shipping milk. Thirty more are in the three-year transition required of a certified organic dairy.

One of Kentucky's two operational organic dairies is **JD Country Milk**, located just south of Russellville in western Kentucky. Willis Schrock owns and operates the organic dairy farm and store, assisted by his wife, Edna, and their eight children. JD Country Milk goes quickly into glass bottles. "Twenty-four hours after the last cow is milked, [the product] can be in the jug," Schrock told the Russellville (Ky.) *News-Democrat & Leader*.

The Schrocks also sell their milk commercially through the Kentucky Proud Rebecca-Grace label.



Commissioner Farmer presents a blue ribbon to Ben Sparrow of Owenton for showing the Kentucky Brown Swiss production winner at the 2006 Kentucky State Fair.

It's about making smart choices

SAFETY

KDA's Farm & Home Safety Program has developed courses on driving all-terrain vehicles and lawn mowers safely.

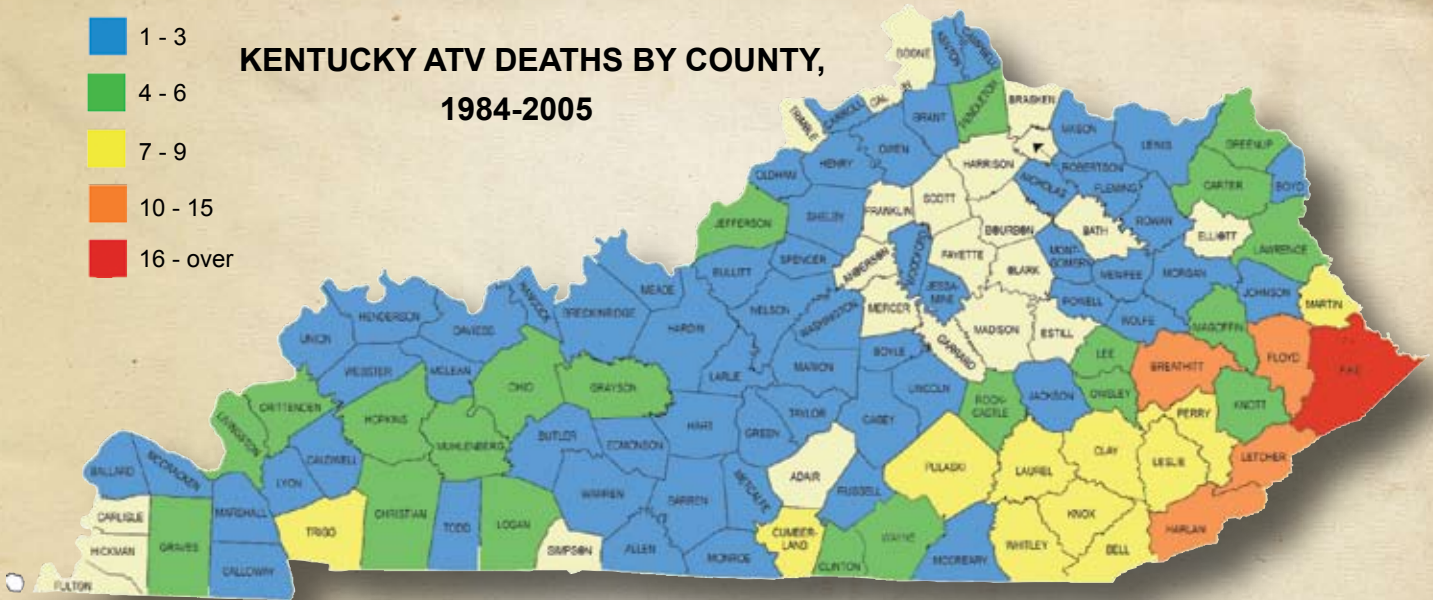
Farming was already Kentucky's most dangerous profession before the upsurge in ATV popularity that accelerated in the 1990s began swelling the toll of death and injury.

Kentucky led the nation in ATV deaths from 2002 to 2004 with 106. Bigger and more powerful lawn mowers have increased the risk of injury and death.

KDA added its **ATV safety course** in 2005 as a pilot project in several counties. A proposal to include \$120,000 in the state budget for the course failed to win approval in the 2006 Kentucky General Assembly.



KENTUCKY ATV DEATHS BY COUNTY, 1984-2005



“Kentucky has suffered more from injuries and deaths in ATV accidents than any other state,” Commissioner Farmer said. “Our ATV education program shows people can minimize risk on their ATVs and still have fun.”

Ray Marcum survived an ATV accident but was left injured for life. His accident shows it is easy to get hurt on an ATV – even when trying to be careful.

Marcum was going only about seven miles per hour in second gear when his ATV ran over an old fence line. The wire whipped across Marcum’s face and damaged his right eye.

The injury required more than 70 stitches around the eye. For six months he couldn’t open or close it. More than two years later, he still had problems with depth perception. “I’ve got some injuries I’ll deal with the rest of my life,” he said.

For all his care, Marcum made two fateful mistakes: He rode without prior training – the incident occurred during his first ride on a vehicle he had purchased from a neighbor – and didn’t wear a helmet.

“I didn’t think I needed training because I wasn’t going to do any hot-dogging,” he explained. Now he thinks he wouldn’t have been badly hurt if he had taken some training and worn a helmet and goggles.

Mock rescues with volunteer victims are good practice for professional rescuers and impressive cautionary instruction to wide-eyed onlookers.

The Farm & Home Safety Program staged a rescue of a “victim” of a **lawn mower accident** in Georgetown in June 2006.

In July, the program gave a lawn mower safety course to Hodgenville city workers. Zero-radius mowers were added to the program’s display at the 2006 Kentucky State Fair.

KDA’s Farm & Home Safety Program has been to **every Kentucky county** since it began in 1998. Safety lectures and slide shows are enlivened by staged rescues of a volunteer “victim” of a re-created accident.

The program’s **tractor rollover simulator** and its miniature **grain bin** illustrate safety issues at these gatherings and at the Kentucky State Fair every year.

The number of farming-related fatalities in Kentucky **has fallen by half**, from 50 in 1995 to between 24 and 26 a year from 2001 to 2004.

LeeWood Goodlett



Chris Aldridge

Justin Bruner examines a gauge on a device that measures gasoline pump accuracy, during a May 2006 stop in Shelbyville.



Protecting and serving the public

CONSUMER

KDA takes its “Consumer Protection And Service Agency” responsibility seriously.

“Our job is to make sure Kentuckians get what they pay their hard-earned money for,” Commissioner Farmer said.

The most frequently visible sign to consumers of the KDA Division of Regulation and Inspection’s statewide presence is the label on each of the state’s **50,000 gasoline, ethanol, diesel and biodiesel pumps** that shows a KDA inspector has been there.



KDA inspectors are required by law to test each pump annually for accuracy and to test motor fuel for quality. They also inspect amusement rides, eggs, supermarket price scanners, grain, limestone, large and small scales, and net weights of packaged goods.

The skyrocketing cost of having a private lab test samples of motor fuel helped convince the 2006 General Assembly to approve a \$1.65 million **motor fuel and pesticide testing laboratory**. The new lab will be an important weapon in the KDA’s consumer protection arsenal, ensuring KDA can do an even better job of making sure Kentucky motorists get their money’s worth at each of the state’s 3,500 registered fuel retailers.

“We test fuel quality to ensure that Kentucky doesn’t become a dumping ground for bad gasoline, and to enforce our state’s ban on MTBE,” Commissioner Farmer said. MTBE, methyl tertiary butyl ether, is a fuel additive banned in Kentucky and elsewhere because it can contaminate ground water.

Less than 10 percent of the samples fail the fuel quality test, which measures to American Society for Testing and Materials standards. Fuel is tested for qualities ranging from foreign matter in the fuel to octane rating. Less than seven percent of Kentucky pumps failed to meet state standards for accuracy in 2005.

The new lab will be located behind KDA’s Office of Consumer and Environmental Protection on Corporate Drive in Frankfort. Its exterior will feature four 500-gallon fuel storage tanks. The lab is set to become operational in mid-2007 following groundbreaking in late 2006.

“It’ll probably be the **most sophisticated lab** in Frankfort,” said Tom Bloemer, a Regulation and Inspection administrative branch manager.

Bloemer said the interior walls of the facility must be blast-proof because of the flammable liquids that will be tested. The building’s five separate labs will test gasoline, diesel fuel, biofuels and pesticides.

Taylor Whitney Architects of Lexington, which has extensive experience in lab construction, is consultant on the project.

“The lab **will save the state money** that we spend sending samples to an out-of-state lab,” Commissioner Farmer told a legislative committee during the 2006 General Assembly. “Plus, we think other agencies and other states will use our lab. It’s a wise investment....It could create a revenue stream. I think it’ll pay for itself in a relatively short period.”

KDA officials also **inspect rides and attractions at all fairs, carnivals and festivals** throughout the state. They inspected about 1,500 mobile rides and about 700 permanent rides in 2005.

“Our inspectors check all details of the rides and make sure they are as safe as possible for the public,” Commissioner Farmer said. KDA inspectors must complete two years of National Association of Amusement Ride Safety Officials training before they can inspect on their own.

Fewer than 10 people were injured on rides in Kentucky during 2005. That year, KDA issued about 30 citations across the state for failing to have a ride inspected.

Besides carnival-type rides, other inspected amusements include inflatables, “ball crawls,” go-karts, bumper boats, climbing walls, mechanical bulls, water slides and simulators. Inspectors also check laser tag centers and playground areas at fast food restaurants.

“It’s all part of our responsibility as a consumer protection and service agency,” Commissioner Farmer said.



Ted Sloan

Rudy Flanagan inspects a ride prior to the 2005 Kentucky State Fair.



Mobilized to protect wherever needed

SECURITY

KDA is prepared to respond quickly to any homeland security emergency relating to agriculture, thanks to a new Mobile Operations Center.

The center is a 44-foot trailer outfitted with radios and other equipment linking with other local, state, and federal authorities.

In any agricultural emergency, whether a terrorist-instigated contamination of the food supply or an animal disease outbreak, the unit would be towed to the scene and staffed by KDA officials. Generators provide self-contained power.

“Government’s first responsibility is to protect the people,” Commissioner Farmer said. “The mobile operations center will enable KDA to bring the necessary resources to bear to an emergency scene, and do it fast.”

Ed Hall, DVM, assistant director of the Division of Animal Health, sees special value in the center’s inter-agency communications capacity. “We can program our radios to talk to anybody, so we can move into any section of Kentucky and set up operations.”

The mobile operations center was purchased with grants from the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security for the communications equipment and a grant from the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management for the trailer. The unit is stored ready to roll at the Boone National Guard Center in Frankfort.

Hall was inspired by the sight of similar vehicles while visiting ag officials in North Carolina. “Other states have bought trailers to store supplies and materials,” he said, “but we’re using it for the command component.”

Sixteen KDA field personnel have undergone **Incident Command System training** to learn how to respond quickly to an agricultural emergency.

A five-state exercise led by the U.S. Department of Agriculture on the disposal of diseased animals, in which Kentucky participated with Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and West Virginia, stressed **efficient inter-state response**. In 2007, Kentucky will participate in a 12-state exercise led by the Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture.

Kentucky is also part of the Southern Animal Agriculture Disaster Responders Association, an *ad hoc* group formed to improve disaster responses, guided by the lessons of Hurricane Katrina. In September 2006, KDA helped coordinate a shipment of bulls to Louisiana farmers who were affected by the summer 2005 hurricane.

KDA has hired Dr. Doug Cox, former director of Murray State University’s Breathitt Veterinary Center animal disease diagnostic laboratory in Hopkinsville, to write a manual of standard operating procedures for anything from an avian influenza pandemic to routine animal disposal.

“The 2005 hurricanes reminded us all that it’s important to act quickly and decisively in the event of an emergency,” Commissioner Farmer said. “Since 9/11, KDA has worked hard to upgrade its capabilities to respond to any type of agricultural emergency.”

"Agriculture Adventures: Kentucky" onstage.



KDA in 2006 launched a second Mobile Science Activity Center in response to demand from Kentucky schools for the traveling interactive education experience.

The Mobile Science Activity Center is a 42-foot trailer with 10 work stations to provide opportunities for students to conduct investigations about agriculture and the environment. Students use materials supplied in the Center to make corn plastic, lip balm, ice cream and many other products.

The traveling program is sponsored by **Kentucky Agriculture and Environment in the Classroom Inc.**, a nonprofit organization administered by KDA that promotes appreciation for agriculture and the environment as it relates to agricultural production.

KDA also sent "**Agriculture Adventures: Kentucky**" on the road for its second season in 2006.

Investing in Kentucky's future

AAK's one-day in-school program begins with "Lunch Room Live," an entertaining show in which children see that even their favorite food, pizza, comes from the earth. Following that show, students milk a fiberglass cow, grind wheat into flour, test soil samples, and participate in many other hands-on experiments and activities. "Agriculture Adventures: Kentucky" is produced by COSI on Wheels, a program of the COSI science museum in Columbus, Ohio.

For the third straight year, KDA awarded **\$47,500 grants** to **Kentucky 4-H and FFA** in 2006. "By investing in these young folks today, we assure a brighter future for all of us tomorrow," Commissioner Farmer said.

KDA's Division of Show and Fair Promotion ran the **Kentucky Proud Points Program** for its second season in 2006. In this program, youth livestock exhibitors are rewarded for excellence at preview and district shows, the state's three junior livestock expos, and the Kentucky State Fair, as well as other shows for some species.

Top exhibitors, animals and breeders in beef and dairy cattle, sheep, goats and swine are recognized at a luncheon at the end of the season. More than 200 youths were honored at the 2005 Kentucky Proud Points awards luncheon.



Commissioner Farmer presents a \$47,500 check to the Kentucky FFA Foundation.

Who do I call about ... ?

- ...the Kentucky Proud marketing program?
Bill Clary, 564-4696, or Roger Snell, 564-4983.
- ...joining Kentucky Proud?
Anna Kindrick or Roger Snell, 564-4983.
- ...the Kentucky Proud license plate?
Gina Phillips, 564-4696; or www.kyagr.com
- ...rights to use the Kentucky Proud logo?
Bill Clary, 564-4696, or Anna Kindrick, 564-4983.
- ...the Kentucky Proud Restaurant Rewards program?
Sara Williamson, 564-4983.
- ...the Farm-To-School program?
Sara Williamson, 564-4983.
- ...registering premises and livestock with the National Animal Identification System?
Tim Turney, 564-3956.
- ...creating a free Web page for Kentucky Proud businesses?
Robbie Meade, 564-5665, ext. 250 or 330-0948; or www.kyagr.com/buyky/webbuild/index.htm
- ...wholesale Kentucky-grown landscape plants?
Bill Holleran, 564-4983.
- ...horticulture cost-share programs?
Anna Lucio, 564-4983.
- ...buying/selling hay, haylages, and forages online?
Kim Field, 573-0289; Hay/Forage Sales Directory, www.kyagr.com/buyky/corral/haylistingpara.asp.
- ...quality testing of my hay, haylages, and forages for nutritional and market value?
Hay/Forage Hotline, (800) 248-4628, toll free.
- ...raising shrimp, catfish, tilapia, paddlefish, and other aquaculture?
Angela Caporelli, 564-4983.
- ...general questions regarding pesticides?
Pesticides Hotline, (866) 289-0001, toll free.
- ...starting or improving a farmers' market?
Janet Eaton, 564-4983.
- ...starting or registering a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm?
Janet Eaton, 564-4983.
- ...officially certifying a farm as "organic"?
Jake Schmitz, 564-4983.
- ...the Kentucky Proud Points Program for livestock exhibitors?
Show and Fair Promotion, 564-4983.
- ...an amusement ride missing its inspection label?
Chad Halsey or Doug Rathbun, 573-0282.
- ...an inaccurate scale used in Kentucky commerce?
Jason Glass, 573-0282.
- ...grocery store price scanners charging incorrectly?
Lanny Arnold, 573-0282.
- ...inaccurate motor fuel pumps?
Lanny Arnold, 573-0282.
- ...verifying the quality of a gas station's motor fuel?
Lanny Arnold, 573-0282.
- ...beekeeping assistance, information and education?
Phil Craft, state apiarist, 564-3956.
- ...booking a farm, home and ATV safety program for an organization?
LeeWood Goodlett, 564-4696.
- ...help in marketing an agritourism destination?
Anna Kindrick, 564-4983.
- ...getting started in export markets?
Anna Kindrick, 564-4983.
- ...the Ky. Livestock and Grain Market Report?
Coy Trapp, 564-4896.
- ...regulations and services for the equine industry?
Rusty Ford, 564-3956.
- ...livestock shows or agricultural fairs?
Show and Fair Promotion, 564-4983.
- ...selling calves in a CPH-45 sale?
Tim Dietrich, 564-4983.
- ...rules for bringing livestock into Kentucky?
State Veterinarian's Office, 564-3956.
- ...reporting an illegal sale of tobacco products to customers under 18?
Jo Carole Phillips, Teens and Tobacco Hotline, (800) 833-6289, toll free.
- ...rules for inspecting eggs?
Bobbie Butler, 573-0282.
- ...no-cost pickup and disposal of old, unused or banned farm pesticides?
Ernest Collins, (800) 205-6543, toll free.
- ...pesticide applicator training and testing dates?
Debbie Armstrong or Wendy Cleveland, 573-0282.
- ...verifying the license or credentials of a pesticide firm?
Debbie Armstrong, 573-0282.
- ...becoming licensed and certified in pest control in Kentucky?
Wendy Cleveland, 573-0282.
- ...a school visit by KDA's Mobile Science Activity Center or Agriculture Adventures: Kentucky?
LeeWood Goodlett, 564-4696.
- ...officially registering the name of your farm?
Brent Frazier, 564-4696.
- ...mosquito, thistle or flora rose spraying, or rat bait?
Elizabeth Burnette or Keith Hamilton, 573-0282.
- ...donating or selling a farm conservation easement?
Brent Frazier, 564-4696.
- ...applying to be a KDA summer intern?
Amanda Cloyd, 564-4696.
- ...Rinse & Return pesticide container recycling?
Ernest Collins, (800) 205-6543, toll free.
- ...starting a free subscription to the *Kentucky Agricultural News* quarterly newspaper?
(888) 567-9589, toll free.

Phone numbers are Area Code 502 unless toll-free.

Most state e-mail addresses follow the format *firstname.lastname@ky.gov*