Doug Langley, a Shelby County farmer and graduate of Class IV, has been named the winner of Kentucky Farmer of the Year contest.

Langley started his first crop of tobacco with six plants when he was five years old in his parent’s back yard. In 1989 his father retired and he began share cropping and with his working relationship and a reputation of proper care and management of the farm he was able to eventually purchase the land. Langley says this was the turning point in his operation as it enabled him to pursue his lifelong dream of owning his own farm and pursuing a career in production agriculture.

Over the years Langley, along side his wife Robin, have increased their line of equipment, crop acres and labor force. They currently operate 5,200 acres including: 200 acres of burley tobacco; 2,800 acres of corn; 2,400 acres of soybeans; 60 acres of wheat; and also raise 2,000 head of feeder steers annually.

Langley’s three children are heavily involved in the family farm. Last year, Christopher (13) and Elaine (9) had their own sweet corn operation and have added tomatoes for 2009. They spend summer afternoons sitting at their “roadside stand” at the end of their driveway selling sweet corn. Bruce (17), a recent high school graduate, works daily on the farm through out the year.

Langley is actively involved in agricultural issues at the national, state and local levels serving on the National Southern States Board, Shelby County Farm Bureau Board, the local Phase I Agricultural Development Board, Shelby County A&M Fair Board, and in other agriculture and community related organizations.

As the winner, Langley will represent Kentucky in the Southeast-Kentucky Agricultural Leadership Program.
Am pleased to announce that a date and location has been set for a summer KALP alumni event at the French Lick Resort and Casino in French Lick, Indiana. Please mark your calendars for August 21st through 23rd. The Resort has offered a substantially discounted rate of $149 per night for the event (thanks to Kent Moore), just call 1-888-936-9360 and tell them you are with the Kentucky Agricultural Leadership Program (Conference code is 0809KAL). We are only guaranteed a small number of rooms at this special rate, so please call before July 21st (sooner is better) to reserve your room.

We are currently planning some group activities for the event, such as a possible golf outing, that will depend on the number of participants, so please contact Phyllis Mattox at the University of Kentucky to confirm your attendance (859-257-7292, Phyllis.Mattox@uky.edu). In addition to the fun atmosphere of the resort and casino and a great time visiting with fellow alumni, the KALP program board will be holding an open meeting during the event to discuss future alumni programs and make plans for a potential alumni trip in 2010.

I hope to see all of you there, but if you are unable to attend, please share any suggestions with the Directors or me prior to this important meeting.

Note from Alumni President Daniel Green

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I hope to see all of you there, but if you are unable to attend, please share any suggestions with the Directors or me prior to this important meeting.

It is not too late to sign up for the 2009 International Leadership Alumni Conference
When: August 19-22 ~ Where: Pasco, Washington
For more information visit www.ILAC09.com

Congratulation
Colby Blair (Class VIII) and his wife Heather welcomed Eli Blair to their family.

Danny Collins (Class VI) is getting married October 24 to Leslie Perry of Bath County.

Brennan Gilkison (Class VIII) placed third in the Winchester Beer Cheese Festival with his famous beer cheese.

If you have news and announcements to share with the Alumni send the information to kara@keetoncommunications.com
**KALP Alumni Giving** by Steve Isaacs, KALP Program Co-Director

Fundraising for our target of a $2 million endowment continues and Ag Leadership Alumni are a major part of the plan. Alumni recently received a packet with a copy of our investment brochure, a letter from the directors, and a pledge card. We hope you are giving serious consideration to helping us build the endowment.

Remember, gifts to KALP are tax deductible and on-line giving in now an option. The link is https://giveto.uky.edu/AG_p/ag.htm. The drop down gift designation list does not have KALP listed yet. Select “other” and indicate KALP in the box.

We know it’s ambitious, but we’d like to have participation of all Alumni in our capital campaign. Washington’s state leadership program publishes an Investors list that is three and a half pages long, and it’s mostly individuals and families. We’d like for KALP to be able to do the same.

While we’re grateful for the checks with lots of zeros at the end, we are just as grateful for the small gifts. We know that it takes lots of kernels to make a bushel and it will take lots of investments, small and large, to make an endowment.

Alumni giving currently stands at over $50,000. A significant portion of that came in response to an appeal that Dr. Jones made a couple of years ago. With the permission of the donors, most of those dollars have been applied to the endowment. We anticipate that alumni giving will grow substantially and will be a major part of the endowment.

Finally, we’re not going to ask you to do something that we’re not willing to do as well. That’s why the program directors have all made investments in the KALP endowment. We remain committed to the program - professionally, personally, and financially.

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**KALP Fundraising Update** by Steve Isaacs, KALP Program Co-Director

Fundraising efforts have continued this spring. Larry, Will, and Marci Hicks from the UK college of Ag’s Development Office, made a swing through West Kentucky and we’ve all made several other visits with potential KALP investors. Since the spring newsletter KALP has received several alumni contributions, along with a $5,000 gift from Siemer Milling and a $125,000 gift from the Burley Tobacco Growers Coop spread over the next five years.

Discussions continue with several other organizations in agricultural credit circles, rural and ag cooperatives, and other agribusinesses. We can currently count about $425,000 that has been committed since the first of the year. About $350,000 of that is designated to match the $850,000 from the Ag Development Board that started the endowment.

Join us in thanking the Ag Development Board, Kentucky Corn Growers Association, Central Kentucky Ag Credit Association, Kentucky Small Grain Growers Association, Philip Morris International, Siemer Milling, the Burley Tobacco Growers Coop, and the alumni for their generous gifts to KALP.
The Alumni View

It is time to hear from the alumni in our newsletter, so we are introducing a new section called The Alumni View.

For this new section we invite alumni to submit articles addressing agriculture issues in Kentucky and beyond. All articles will go before the editorial board (Snell & Isaacs) for approval before printing.

To submit your articles or an idea for a point-counterpoint article please email kara@keetoncommunications.com.

KALP Advisory Board
by Will Snell, Program Co-Director

The KALP Advisory Board consisting of representatives from the Governor’s Office of Ag Policy (Roger Thomas), the Kentucky Ag Development Board (Sam Lawson), regional universities (Dr. Kim Holmes (KSU), Dr. Tony Brannon (Murray State) and Dr. Laurie Rincker (EKU), program alumni (Eddie Gilkison, Mike Chalfant, and Anthony Koch), and your program directors (Drs. Isaacs, Jones, and Snell) met in Elizabethtown on April 24 to discuss program funding strategies and begin the selection process for Class IX.

The Board identified the class selection committee will consist of a representative from the alumni, a GOAP staff member, and a regional university Advisory Board member. KALP program directors will serve as non-voting members of the selection committee. At the request of the board, a class participant handbook is being developed to better inform potential applicants of the program policies and procedures along with participant expectations and responsibilities.

Given the additional promotion of the program as part of the fundraising campaign, the number of nominations and potential applicants may increase significantly for Class IX. Historically all applicants have been interviewed. But the board will re-evaluate this policy if the number of applications exceeds 40. The Board supported multiple interview locations to minimize travel for applicants and to continue to move seminars around to various locations in the state, including regional university sites.

As outlined in the GOAP legal agreement, the Board strongly encouraged the selection committee to compose a very diverse class consisting of diversity in terms of farm size, farm enterprises, ag businesses, race, gender, geographic location and leadership potential. The Advisory Board will meet again this fall to finalize curriculum and locations for Class IX and to review funding outcomes.

KALP EVENTS

Thursday, July 9
KALP Alumni Lexington Legends Night
Join the KALP Alumni for an evening at the ballpark (7pm at Applebees Park in Lexington). For more information contact Will Snell at wsnell@uky.edu.

Friday, August 21 - Sunday, August 23
KALP Summer Alumni Outing
Join the KALP Alumni at French Lick Resort and Casino in French Lick, Indiana. For more information contact Phyllis Mattox at phyllis.mattox@ky.edu or call (859) 257-7292.

Stay tuned for info on the KALP Fall outing to Keeneland!

Langley continued....

ern Farmer of the Year contest, the South’s most prestigious agricultural award, later this year. The Southeastern Farmer of the Year program was started in 1990 by Swisher International and the Sunbelt Agricultural Exposition.

This program announced by Kentucky Farm Bureau in 2006, recognizes farmers of all ages for their commitment to excellence in the agriculture industry and their efficiency in farming practices, sound financial management, and leadership in civic organizations.

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