Participants for Class IX Selected

With the help of a great selection committee - Dr. Tony Brannon (Dean, Murray State University School of Agriculture, Eddie Gilkison (Class II), Alison Smith (Class VIII), and Bill McCloskey (Class VI)) - we have chosen the participants for KALP Class IX.

There were 100 nominations, 56 applications, and 36 interviewees. Thanks to Anthony Koch (Class VIII), Larry Jones, and Laurie Rincker (Eastern KY University) for helping with an initial sort. We have an impressive class of 20 Kentuckians and two Tennesseans.

By almost any measure, we have really good diversity. Lawrence Co. to Ballard Co. Grads from UK and all regional universities. Six female. Two African-American. Ten full time farmers. 23 to 44 by age. Small to large farms. Democrats and Republicans.

The problem was that we had to limit the class to 22. Some very qualified people did not make the roster this time.

If you know some of those people and agree that they would make good Class X participants, please try to encourage them to apply next time around and thank them for applying this time.

Continued on page 3

Andi Branstetter
Metcalf County

Shane Courtney
Shelby County

Robert Eads
Fayette County

Nicholas Hardesty
Meade County

Todd Harp
Bourbon County

Jay Head
Clarksville, TN

Matt Jackson
Henry County

Willis Jepson
Orlinda, TN

J.W. O’Bryan
Daviess County

Brenda Paul
Bourbon County

Todd Perry
Christian County

Clint Quarles
Scott County

Julia Rollins
Lawrence County

Kaycie Len Sparrow
Mercer County

Quentin Tyler
Fayette County

Al Young
Christian County

Jean-Marie Lawson
Jefferson County

Jill Mahan
Scott County

Richie Mc Clerkin
Taylor County

Richard Medley
Washington County

Aaron Miller
Clark County

Tom Miller
Ballard County

KALP Program Co-Directors
Steve Isaacs
Will Snell

KALP News Editor
Kara Keeton

Kentucky Agricultural Leadership Program
Laura Knoth grew up in Livingston County on a grain, hog, and cattle farm and has always felt at home in Kentucky’s agriculture industry. “My dad was an ag teacher and the adult farmer and FFA advisor,” said Knoth. “I spent much of my childhood at ag meetings with him, so it wasn’t a surprise when I decided to pursue a career in agriculture.”

In 1991, after working as an environmental consultant, Knoth accepted a job with the Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) as an environmental director and lobbyist. After eight years on the front lines in Frankfort, she took the opportunity to return to her hometown as the Farm Bureau Area Program director for far west Kentucky.

Knoth returned the state office in 2004 to take on the role of director of the Public Affairs Division for KFB where she supervised all KFB’s public affairs activities including state and national lobbying, policy development programs, political education, natural resources, local affairs and commodity activities.

“In my eighteen years at Farm Bureau I’ve had the opportunity to work many different facets of the organization, from on the farm to the halls at the capitol, and what an education it has been.” said Knoth. “Now I have the opportunity to expand my skills more in my new role as Executive Director of the Kentucky Corn and Kentucky Small Grain Growers Association.”

Knoth is excited about the challenge of directing the activities of an organization that serves the interests of more than 2000 grain farmers across the Commonwealth. She believes that Kentucky’s grain industry has a strong future, but is aware that there are many issues that the industry is facing in today’s global economy.

“I think it is important to be aware of the strong environmental era we are entering,” said Knoth. “We have to focus on how we can support and grow our industry while addressing environmental concerns and regulations.”

Knoth also see her leadership role as one to help the Kentucky grain farmers tell their story to the consumer, while working with other commodity groups to strengthen all of Kentucky agriculture.

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**IAPAL**

In October, Steve and Will attended the International Association of Programs for Agricultural Leaders (IAPAL) in Jackson Hole Wyoming. IAPAL consists of nearly 40 program leaders across the U.S. and several other countries including Scotland, New Zealand, Canada, and Australia. This forum allows for great networking opportunities for program leaders to share ideas on programming, speakers, events, fundraising, and travel.

**KALP News Briefs**

**Dr. Jones**

Dr. Larry Jones’ “retirement” did not last long as he was appointed in October as the Acting Associate Dean for Academic Programs in the College of Agriculture at the University of Kentucky. Larry will assume this position for approximately the next year to year and a half before a national search takes place to fill this position.

**Alumni Meeting**

Instead of having our annual Alumni Meeting in February, we have decided to host this meeting on Monday, March 22 in conjunction with a Kentucky visit by the California Agricultural Leadership Program. Tentative plans are being made for a joint event between our alumni and the current California program (Class 40). We will be sending out more information on this meeting (which will be held in Lexington) in early 2010 once we finalize the event.
Participants for Class IX cont...

Introducing Class IX participants!

Andi Branstetter is a Metcalfe County native and the Ag-Tek manager for Neogen Corporation Lexington. She received a BS from Eastern Kentucky University and MS from the University of Kentucky.

Shane Courtney is a full-time farmer and owner of Lawns of Perfection, LLC in Shelby County. He received a BS in Agriculture from the University of Kentucky.

Robert Eads is a full-time farmer in Fayette County with tobacco, beef cattle, hay, muck rebaling and soybeans. He graduated from the University of Kentucky with a BS in Agricultural Economics.

Nicholas Hardesty is a full-time farmer near Brandenburg, KY. His farming operation consists of burley tobacco, beef cow/calf, hay, and a 1 million plant tobacco greenhouse. Nicholas has a degree from Elizabethtown Community College.

Todd Harp works as a Senior Project Analyst at the Governor’s Office of Agricultural Policy. In his spare time, Todd also raises 40 head of dairy goats in Bourbon County. He received an AS, BS, and MA from Eastern Kentucky University.

Jay Head is a full-time farmer near Clarksville, TN. He graduated with a BS in Ag Business from Austin Peay State University. Jay raises dark air-cured, dark fire-cured, and burley tobacco. Jay also raises corn, wheat, soybeans, and cattle.

Matt Jackson graduated from South Dakota State University. He is a full-time farmer in Henry County with registered Angus and Simangus beef and a crossbred commercial herd.

Willis Jepson is a full-time farmer from Orinda, Tennessee. His farming operation includes corn, wheat, soybeans, and tobacco. Willis graduated from the University of Tennessee with a BS in Ag Economics.

Jean-Marie Lawson is the Corporate Marketing Manager for Hartland Equipment in Louisville. She is also a co-host of the “Jean-Marie and Joe Show” a radio program that delivers news about agriculture in South Central Kentucky. She's a Western Kentucky University graduate.

Jill Mahan and her husband John (Class V) run their own sod business, SodWorks, in Scott County. Along with fescue and bluegrass sod, they also raise tobacco, grains, alfalfa, and do muck recycling. Jill is a graduate of Morehead State University.

Richie McClerkin graduated from Murray State University with a BS and MS in Agriculture. He works for Farm Credit Services of Mid-America in Taylor County. Clint also raises tobacco, corn, soybeans, and wheat.

Julia Rollins is the Lawrence County Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources. She graduated from the University of Kentucky with a BS and MS.

Continued on page 6
**KALP Alumni Giving**

Fund raising for Class IX and the KALP endowment has continued this fall. Total contributions stand at nearly $1.6 million including the $1.0 million from the Ag Development Board.

We currently stand at 41 alumni contributors. Check the sponsors list on the next page to see if you are there and in the correct category. A major goal is to increase the alumni participation from its current 18.5% level to at least 50% by the end of 2010.

We will likely be contacting class reps to make some calls to alumni before the end of the year. Remember these gifts can be made over a number of years. Below is the updated alumni giving by Class. If you haven’t made a contribution, please consider KALP in your giving plans.

Giving is easy! We have a link to online giving on our newly revised webpage (see address at the right). Go to the Sponsorship tab and select “University of Kentucky Online Giving.” The drop-down gift designation list still does not have KALP listed (we’re working on it) so you have to select “Other” and enter KALP in the appropriate slot. If you want to mail a gift or pledge, send it to:

**UK College of Agriculture**
**ES Good Barn**
**1451 University Drive**
**Lexington, KY 40546-0276**

Be sure to indicate KALP in the memo line.

https://giveto.uky.edu/AG_p/ag.htm

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Alumni Update

Tim Cansler (Class V), Meridian Growth Strategy, was chosen to provide Executive Director services to California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association.

Todd Clark (Class V) was elected as the President of the Council on Burley Tobacco.

Paul Hornback (Class I) is running for the 20th Senatorial district seat.

Kara Keeton (Class VIII) welcomed Jake Robert Keeton to the world on October 6, 2009.

Laura Knoth (Class V) has accepted the position as the Executive Director of the Kentucky Corn Growers Association.

Daniel (Class VII) and Alison (Class VIII) Smith of Stamping Ground won top honors in the Kentucky Farm Bureau Excellence in Ag awards program and will represent Kentucky in the national competition.

ALUMNI SURVEY

Thanks to those of you who have responded to our recent alumni survey. We are trying to improve our database on leadership positions taken by our program alumni and always need updated contact information. For those who have not responded, we would appreciate if you would complete the survey at your earliest convenience.

KALP Funding Opportunities

<table>
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<th>Sponsorship Opportunities</th>
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<th>Endowments</th>
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<td>Session</td>
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<td>Firm Visit/Meal</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Day Seminar</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
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Level VI: $1,000,000 or more
Ky Agricultural Development Board

Level V: $100,000 - $999,999
Ky Corn Growers Association
Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative

Level IV: $10,000 - $99,999
Alltech
Burley Stabilization Corporation
Central Ky Ag Credit Association
Farm Credit System Foundation
Ky Small Grain Growers Assn
Philip Morris International
Gilkison, Eddie
Hall, Lee

Level III: $1,000 - $9,999
Barnett, Chris
Barton, James
Barton, Robert
Blair, Bud
Blair, Colby
Embassy Suites
Hardaway, Dan
Henton, Hoppy
Hornback, Paul
Isaacs, Steve
Jones, Larry
Mulhollem-Cravens Foundation
Siemer Milling
Sodworks, John Mahan
Soil Conservation Districts of Kentucky
Snell, Will
Thomas, Raymond
Young, Harry

Level II: $500 - $999
Bryant, Alan
Helm, John
Keeton, Kara
Kuegel, Rod
Lyons, Alvin
Martin, Lynn
Rice, Jeff
Rowlett, David
Smith, Daniel & Alison
Spaulding, Joe
Todd, Barry
Tucker, Paul

Level I: Up to $500
Baird, Kelly
Bedford, Robert
Blank, Angela
Cannon, Victoria
Central Insurance Agency
Chastain, Jennifer
Council for Burley Tobacco
Easley, Michael
Hillenmeyer, Ellen
Hornback, Pat
Hyde, Michael
KY Dairy Development Council
Lawrence, Bob
Lovell, Nathan
McCloskey, Bill
McCoun, Philip
Mitchell, Donald
O’Reilly, Arnold
Pierce, Mark
Settles, Jeff
Tingle, Alvin
Class IX Seminars

The first three seminars for Class IX are scheduled and programs are coming together.

Seminar 1 will be in Lexington January 6-8. The featured speaker will be Kim Anderson of the Fanning Institute at the University of Georgia who will Introduce the class to the basics of leadership.

The second seminar will be February 17-20, also in Lexington, and will feature Jimmy Richardson and his Meyers-Briggs revelations about participants and their spouses/partners. In addition we will have the enjoyable session on professional/dining etiquette and a motivational speaker from Missouri who is very active in controversial ag issues at the local, state, and national levels. Seminar 3 will bring the ever exciting Barry Flinchbaugh from Kansas back to KALP to discuss the policy process and current ag policy issues.

The tentative issues schedule for Seminars 4-12 are

**July 2010**
KY Ag & Rural Communities

**October 2010**
Energy / Media & Communication

**November 2010**
Federal Policy

**December 2010**
International Trade & Policy

**January 2011**
Globalization (International Trip)

**February 2011**
State Government

**March 2011**
Strategic Financial Management

**April 2011**
Equine Issues / Reflections Graduation

**July 2011**
Ag Leadership (Out of State Trip)

Participants for Class IX cont...

Kaycie Len Sparrow is a Mercer County native and Lead Organizer and Legislative Agent for the Community Farm Alliance. She is a UK graduate and raises vegetables in her spare time along with helping out her husband, Kip, with their beef farm.

Quentin Tyler works as an Extension Associate of Recruitment and Retention for the University of Kentucky’s College of Ag. He is a UK graduate and PhD candidate.

Al Young received a BS from Murray State University and MS from the University of Tennessee. He is a full time grain farmer in Christian County.

Thanks to Burley Stabilization Corporation who has agreed to pay full cost (both cash and in-kind costs) for our two Tennessee participants.

Unlike some of our neighboring states, Tennessee does not have a statewide agricultural leadership program. Our Tennessee participants took part in our interview process and were deemed highly acceptable by our selection committee.

The KALP Advisory Board, the Kentucky’s Governor’s Office of Ag Policy, and Dean Smith all supported this decision to further diversify the geographical base of our program.

KALP Advisory Board 2009-2010

Dr. Tony Brannon, Dean Murray State University

Michael Chalfant (Class VI)

Eddie Gilkison (Class II)

Dr. Kim Holmes, Kentucky State University

Dr. Steve Isaacs, KALP

Dr. Larry D. Jones, KALP

Anthony Koch (Class VIII)

Sam Lawson, Ky Ag Development Board

Dr. Laurie Rincker, Eastern Kentucky University

Dr. Will Snell, KALP

Roger Thomas, Executive Director of the GOAP
Reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to confront global climate change is receiving increased attention by Congress as they look to enact cap and trade measures that would restrict emissions. The House passed H.R. 2454 this past June, and the Senate is scheduled to consider their bill, S. 1733, in the spring.

This legislation would increase input costs to farmers, and nearly all consumers and businesses, because the cost of using fossil fuels would increase. Nearly all analysis of the legislation shows that Kentucky’s economy will be the hardest hit of any state due to the projected increases in energy costs. Farmers would be uniquely affected because they have little ability to pass on those increased costs when selling their product; furthermore, farmers could also suffer a competitive disadvantage in international trade markets. Climate change legislation could ultimately lead to regulation of production methods and practices as well.

Some contend that cap-and-trade legislation could provide economic opportunities for producers through carbon sequestration programs such as practicing no-till farming, using methane digesters, planting trees or forages, etc. While it is possible some producers might benefit, it is far more certain that all producers will face input higher costs. Another aspect is that not all producers (such as fruit and vegetable producers) would have the opportunity to capture such economic benefits. Producers that have implemented practices that sequester carbon or reduce emissions in years past may not even be eligible to benefit from certain carbon sequestration programs. USDA estimates agriculture accounts for roughly 6-7 percent of GHG emissions but they also contend given the right economic incentives agriculture could play a major role in sequestering carbon.

One thing is sure, only enacting cap and trade policy in the U.S. without countries such as China and India doing the same will not result in a reduction of GHG emissions globally.

~ Joe Cain
Kentucky Farm Bureau
jcain@kyfb.com

The Alumni View
Ag leadership development has always been about addressing important issues that affect agriculture, often from multiple perspectives. To encourage continued discourse we’re going to feature guest commentary from alumni in a section called The Alumni View.

The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of the KALP directors, advisory board, or University of Kentucky. We hope to soon have a section on the KALP website to allow for reasonable, responsible, and respectful interchange about issues in agriculture and rural communities.

This Alumni View is presented by Class VII graduate Joe Cain. Let Joe or us know what you think about the Alumni View. We don’t feel that we all have to agree on everything, but we should be willing to listen to each other as we continue to hone our leadership skills, improve our ag economy, and enhance the quality of life in our rural communities.