I cannot believe it is March 2012 already; the first few months of the year have been a whirlwind! Our organization has been busy with exhibits at various trade shows involving agriculture.

I really appreciate several board members stepping up to represent us at these opportunities to spread the word about our organization. Sadly, a few Spring storms have already left their mark across our state as well. I know we have many members who have experienced damage and loss. I encourage each of you to give or go help with the recovery efforts in these communities.

I have attended several meetings for the Kentucky Ag Council recently, as we launched our new Strategic Planning Task Force for the next 5-year plan. The Task Force is chaired by Keith Rogers, Todd Clark, and myself, and we look forward to valuable input from all farmers across the state. There will be a number of opportunities over the next several months to participate and I hope you’ll make time to do that.

On a sad note, I want to express our sympathy to our past Treasurer, Phyllis Amyx & her husband, Carroll, following the death of their son, Dr. John Amyx. We’ll be praying for the Amyx family during this sad time.

Our sympathies also continue to the family of Julie King, Marketing Coordinator & Event Planner for Fastline Publications. You
President’s Message (cont.)

will remember Julie spoke at our conference luncheon and hosted a booth at our Trade Show. Julie passed away suddenly in early December and she will certainly be missed by everyone who knew her. Please keep her family, friends, and coworkers in your prayers.

The early months of 2012 have seen many annual meetings for agricultural groups. Please help us spread the word about KWIA and get involved in your commodity group as much as possible.

We have a great group of members and I know you have so much to offer. If I can help you or your commodity group in any way please don’t hesitate to call on me. I always look forward to spending time with fellow farmers!

Thanks for a great fall conference and I look forward to working with each of you this year.

Yours truly,

Sharon Furches

2011 KWIA Awards

Above - KWIA President Sharon Furches poses with KWIA Award recipients after the 2011 Awards Luncheon. State Executive Director John McCauley (left) accepted the Honorary Friend Award on behalf of the Kentucky Farm Service Agency.

Jean-Marie Lawson (right) received the Continued Excellence Award for her ongoing commitment to Kentucky agriculture.

KWIA Out & About

Above - Helena Pitcock (Center), staffing KWIA’s booth, talks to attendees of the 2012 Ag Industry Tradeshow held in conjunction with the annual meetings of Kentucky Cattlemen’s Association, Kentucky Horse Council and the Burley Co-op in January.

Above - Todd Harp, ag. instructor, and two FFA students accept the Honorary Friend Award on behalf of Locust Trace AgriScience Farm and School, of Lexington.

Dr. & Mrs. Pearse Lyons, founders of Alltech, received the Laura Clay Award for their contributions to agriculture and communities at the local, state and national levels. Elizabeth Bagby (left) accepts the award on their behalf.
Counter-Clockwise from Left - Participants of the 2011 KWIA Pre-Conference Tour traveled Fayette & Scott counties style courtesy of KSU.

First stop the UK Arboretum and a view of the moving 5191 Memorial - a sculpture of 49 birds taking flight. The trip included a visit to Clark Farms, a diversified ag operation.

Left - The tour visits Cobra Farm a 340-acre Thoroughbred breeding operation—the birthplace of Seattle Slew (1974) when the farm was White Horse Acres.

Below center, right - Apples travel to the cider press at Evans Orchard in Scott County, a fifth generation family farm. Evans specializes in cider processing, fruits & vegetables and is an acclaimed agritourism destination.

Below left - Participants tour Alltech’s Lexington Brewing and Distilling Co. where Kentucky Ale has been brewed, since 2000.
New Members

Welcome to the newest members to Kentucky Women in Agriculture. We are glad you are with us and look forward to getting to know you more. Names below are followed by county and district number.

Loretta Adams (Paint Lick, 4)  Amanda Conrad (Christian, 7)  Corrine Kephart (Henry, 3)  Eugenia Potter (3)
Melissa Ballard (Shelby, 3)  Lori Durham (4)  Heather LaBoyteaux (5)  Irene Rankin (Fayette, 4)
Bettina Balmer (Big Creek, 2)  Jill England (Adair, 5)  Maria Lewis (Daviess, 6)  Deborah Reed (4)
Kay Barton (Grayson, 5)  Mary Courtney (Shelby, 3)  MaryKate Lindsey (6)  Kimberly Richardson (Franklin, 4)
Regina Becknell (??, 5)  Sherry Ferguson (Fayette, 4)  Denise Martin (3)  Bessie Smith (Lincoln, 4)
Lori Belling (Oldham, 5)  Ann Ferrell (Warren, 6)  Meagan Mattingly (Grayson, 5)  Martha Thompson (Fayette, 4)
Jodi Blake (Fayette, 4)  Samantha Gilreath (Whitley, 2)  Camila Modica (Lewis, 1)  Leah Catherine Turner (Perry, 2)
Sara Broadwater (4)  Cyndi Hall (Franklin, 4)  Eileen O’Donahue (5)  Amy Wathen (Oldham, 3)
Winifred Brooks (Clark, 4)  Miranda Hileman (Fayette, 4)  Lindsey New (Wayne, 5)  Jeneen Wiche (Shelby, 3)
Tammy Brookshier (Shelby, 4)  JudyHockensmith (Woodford, 4)  Eileen Parker (Dist. 5)  Dayle Windsor (4)
Kate Lynne Burnett (Wayne, 5)  Thecla Howard (Franklin, 4)  TraceyPariman (Mason, 1)  Pamela Wood (Mercer, 4)
Elizabeth Kennan Burns (Boyle, 4)  Michelle Howell (Warren, 6)  Chelsea Piercy (Wayne, 5)  
Ashlee Castle (Taylor, 5)  Angie Justice (Menifee, 1)  Sharon Piper-Martin (Boyle, 4) 
Lisa Collins (Fayette, 4)  Cheryl Kaiser (Fayette, 4)  Patsy Poore (Logan, 6)  

KWIA Membership Districts

District 1 (Gwenda Johnson): Bath, Bracken, Boyd, Carter, Elliott, Fleming, Floyd, Greenup, Johnson, Lawrence, Lewis, Magoffin, Martin, Mason, Menifee, Montgomery, Morgan, Pike, Robertson, Rowan

District 2 (Rita Rogers): Bell, Breathitt, Clay, Harlan, Jackson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Owsley, Perry, Rockcastle, Whitley, Wolfe

District 3 (Jeanine Raymond): Boone, Bullitt, Campbell, Carroll, Gallatin, Grant, Henry, Jefferson, Kenton, Oldham, Owen, Pendleton, Shelby, Spencer, Trimble

District 4 (Carrie Johnson): Anderson, Bourbon, Boyle, Clark, Estill, Fayette, Franklin, Garrard, Harrison, Jessamine, Lincoln, Madison, Mercer, Nicholas, Powell, Scott, Woodford

District 5 (Lindsey New): Adair, Breckinridge, Casey, Clinton, Cumberland, Grayson, Green, Hardin, LaRue, McCreary, Marion, Meade, Nelson, Pulaski, Russell, Taylor, Washington, Wayne

District 6 (Linda Dickerson): Allen, Barren, Butler, Daviess, Edmonson, Hancock, Hart, Henderson, Logan, McLean, Metcalfe, Monroe, Ohio, Simpson, Union, Warren, Webster

District 7 (Natalie Allison): Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Hopkins, Livingston, Lyon, McCracken, Muhlenberg, Todd, Trigg

*See listing above of counties in each district.*
Membership Renewal

Any individual who supports our goals and objectives and submits a membership form and dues is eligible to join KWIA. Below is our membership roster for 2012; Lifetime members are in italics.

If you don’t see your name or a friend’s, then it’s time to renew your membership for 2012 and get your friend to join too. Dues for an individual are only $25 for the year or $250 for lifetime. Visit www.kywomenina.com for more info.

If you think you should be listed for 2012, then email us at info@kywomenina.com.

| Loretta Adams       | Dawn Gentry | Camila Modica            |
| Leona Adkins        | Terry Gilbert| Lindsey News             |
| Natalie Allison     | Samantha Gilreath | Eileen O'Donahue     |
| Phyllis Amyx        | Betrecia D. Goforth | Dr. Gary Palmer   |
| Karen Angelucci     | Cyndi Hall | Kylee Palmer          |
| Michelle Armstrong  | Carla Harper | Shelby Parker        |
| Alice W. Baesler    | Frieda Heath | Tracey Parriman       |
| Melissa Ballard     | Jimmy Henning | Chelsea Piercy     |
| Bettina Balmer      | Miranda Hileman | Pam Pilgrim    |
| Regina Becknell     | Deborah Hill | Sharon Piper-Martin   |
| Lori Belling        | Judy Hockensmith | Helena Pitcock    |
| Judith Blake        | Charlene Horn | Patsy Poore         |
| Gae Broadwater      | Tammy Horn | Eugenia Potter        |
| Sara Broadwater     | Thecla Howard | Dr. Kim Ragland     |
| Winifred Brooks     | Michelle Howell | Irene Rankin     |
| Tammy Brookshier    | Jennifer Hudnall | Jeanine Raymond   |
| Frances Ann Brown   | Carrell Hughes | Deborah Reed       |
| Kate Lynne Burnett  | Jenny Inman | Kimberly Richardson  |
| Elizabeth Burns     | Carrie Johnson | Dawn Riley        |
| Georgia Burton      | Angie Justice | Rita Rogers         |
| Sharon Burton       | Cheryl Kaiser | Tamara Sandberg     |
| Christy Cassady     | Kara Keeton | Cathy Sebastian       |
| Ashley Castle       | Corrine Kephart | Karen Shannon     |
| Renee Choate        | Julie King* | Bessie Smith         |
| Lisa Collins        | Heather LaBoyeaux | Sharlisa Smotherman |
| Amanda Conrad       | Margaret Lane | Cara Stewart        |
| Mary Courtney       | Beverly Lawson | Dr. Bonnie Tanner |
| Paula Covault       | Jean-Marie Lawson | Martha Thompson |
| Dr. Nancy Cox       | Maria Lewis | Myra Leigh Tobin     |
| Tina Dawson         | Mary Kate Lindsey | Kathy Tuggle     |
| Sharon Denney       | Loretta Lyons | Leah Catherine       |
| Linda Dickerson     | Carol Mark | Turner              |
| Lori Durham         | Christi Marksbury | Wanda Wallace    |
| Jane Elam           | Denise Martin | Amy Wathen         |
| Jennifer Elwell     | Meagan Mattingly | Jeneen Wiche     |
| Jill England        | Sue McAfee | Dayle Windsor        |
| Sherry Ferguson     | Kimberly McDaniel | Mary Witt        |
| Ann Ferrell         | Ellen McKinley | Pamela Wood       |
| Sharon Furches      | Elizabeth McNulty |               |
| Sandy Gardner       | Mary Mills-Turner |               |

*deceased

Labor Dept. to Revise...Child Farm-Labor Rules

By Al Cross, Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues

The U.S. Department of Labor will revise and apparently relax the controversial regulation that would have allowed children under 16 to do farm work only on farms wholly owned by their parents.

An unnamed department official told reporters on a conference call this afternoon that the new rule will take into account changes in corporate structure over the past few decades and the devices that farm families use to transfer ownership between generations, sometimes gradually. That was a major point of contention for farmers who objected to the proposal.

Department officials said they hope to propose a revised rule by early summer. Meanwhile, they said the department would revert to a less strict enforcement policy, last used 10 or more years ago, regarding child labor.

A 1966 federal law that prohibits children from doing certain hazardous jobs on farms "allows children of any age who are employed by their parent, or a person standing in the place of a parent, to perform any job on a farm owned or operated by their parent or such person standing in the place of a parent," a department press release noted.

In 2002 or perhaps earlier, the department began interpreting "owned" to mean "wholly owned," and the proposed regulation would have formalized that policy, the department official said. Now, until the revised regulation is adopted, it will revert to the previous definition of "substantially owned."

(Continued on page 6)
For the fifth year, Kentucky Women in Agriculture will award a $1,000 scholarship to a deserving woman studying agriculture. The deadline for applications is May 25, 2012.

The scholarship program evolved out of our mission to empower women in agriculture through education, involvement and action. The scholarship is awarded to a woman seeking a degree in agriculture who is entering her junior or senior year in college or pursuing a graduate degree.

Successful applicants must demonstrate how the degree sought will benefit agriculture and her interest in agriculture through an essay. She also must possess a GPA of 2.5 or higher and be a Kentucky resident.

For more information or to download the application, visit [www.kywomeninag.com](http://www.kywomeninag.com) or email info@kywomeninag.com.

(Continued from page 5)

Asked what that phrase means, the official talked instead about the rule to come: "It clearly will allow for a variety of corporate structures and family owners of a farm while still meeting the intent of Congress that the parent is in a unique position to look out for the welfare of the child in that context."

The new rule could also apply to grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Labor Secretary Hilda Solis said in the press release that her agency "appreciates and respects the role of parents in raising their children and assigning tasks and chores to their children on farms and of relatives such as grandparents, aunts and uncles in keeping grandchildren, nieces and nephews out of harm's way."

The proposed regulation stirred many complaints from farm and members of Congress. When the revised regulation is published, there will be another comment period, probably 60 days, before a final and perhaps further revised version of the rule can take effect.

The department will take into account comments "particularly from rural communities and owners of family farms," said the department official, who spoke on the condition that she be identified in that manner.

Visit The Rural Blog at irjci.blogspot.com.
KCARD Launches Agribusiness Grant Facilitation Program

The Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (KCARD) is launching a new service to farmers and rural businesses in 2012, the Agribusiness Grant Facilitation Program (AGFP).

In working with Kentucky's entrepreneurs, KCARD staff identified a need for greater information about grant opportunities to be provided to their small business clients. Prospective applicants were finding out about funding opportunities too late in the process to be able to put together a competitive application. Funded in part by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund, AGFP is designed to help agricultural producers and rural businesses in Kentucky learn about, apply for, and receive funding available through numerous programs.

KCARD has named Aleta Botts coordinator for AGFP. Botts has nearly ten years of experience working on agriculture issues at the federal level, most recently as a policy staffer for the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture.

As the coordinator of AGFP, Botts will be helping connect Kentucky producers and agricultural businesses with funding resources.

"Kentucky is blessed with so many great entrepreneurs doing innovative projects. Unfortunately, many deserving projects do not receive funds...simply because a lot of prospective applicants do not know about the programs or do not think they have the time to navigate the process," explained Botts. "Through this Grant Facilitation Program, we can help people stay informed on funding opportunities and walk them through the maze for filling out good applications."

Botts will first be focusing on identifying available grant and loan resources, bringing these resources to the attention of applicants in Kentucky, and helping applicants better understand the programs' requirements. She also looks forward to working with grant writers in the state to help them connect with interested applicants.

As a statewide organization, KCARD works with rural businesses and agribusinesses across the Commonwealth to provide specialized assistance increasing the chances for success, including strategic planning, business management, operations analysis, recordkeeping development, cost analysis, and on-site business consultations.
Left - Karen Woodrich, NRCS State Conservationist leads a lunch panel titled “Women in Charge.” Sharon Burton, The Farmer’s Pride editor and owner, listens intently awaiting her turn to share with the group. Amy Wathen and the late Julie King, of Fastline, also participated in the panel.

Far Left - Participants of the 2011 KWIA Conference take a break to do a little shopping at the Conference Trade-show.

Near Left - Alice Baesler, KWIA Co-founder and 2011 Policy Committee Chair, provides policy updates to the group, including a little known (at the time) proposed regulatory change to child labor laws that would impact farm families. (See Al Cross’s story on page 5 that provides an update.)

Above - Newly installed officers for 2012-2013 pose for a photo. (Left to Right) Vice President Michelle Armstrong, District 7 Director Natalie Allison, District 5 Director Lindsey New; Treasurer Becky Hicks Kinder; District 3 Director Jeanine Raymond and Past-President Terry Gilbert. Not pictured District 1 Director Gwenda Adkins Johnson.

Above Right - Conference participants listen during one of the four available breakout sessions. Concurrent sessions were repeated, so that all could attend each session.

Right - Melissa Jenkins Smith shares her inspirational story “I Choose to Be Happy,” during the closing session. Paralyzed from the chest down in the 1997 Heath High School shooting, her faith, courage and determination have enabled her to forgive the shooter and move forward with her life. Today she is an inspiration to people worldwide.
Clockwise from Top - Attendees enjoy a delicious buffet of food, featuring Kentucky Proud products.

Liz Denham and Stephanie Nance were recipients of KWIA’s Sullivan Culinary Arts Student Scholarship.

KWIA members Tina Dawson, Patsy Poore and Carrell Hughes, all of Logan County, enjoy Kentucky Proud appetizers.

Natalie Allison, center, poses with co-founders Dr. Bonnie Tanner and Alice Baesler.

Commissioner of Agriculture James Comer with Chef Jeremy Ashby, of Azur Restaurant.

Ex-officio Christi Marksbury and new members, Kylee Palmer and Angie Justice take a break to smile for the camera.
Mission

The mission of Kentucky Women in Agriculture Inc. is to empower women through education, involvement, and action.

Our broad goals include:
- Promoting Kentucky women in agriculture.
- Promoting agriculture in Kentucky.
- Creating a cooperative feeling among women in agriculture and striving for good fellowship and integrity of the membership as a whole.
- Protecting the best interest of our members.
- Communicating with one another and with other consumers to promote agricultural products and services for the benefit of Kentuckians and the world.