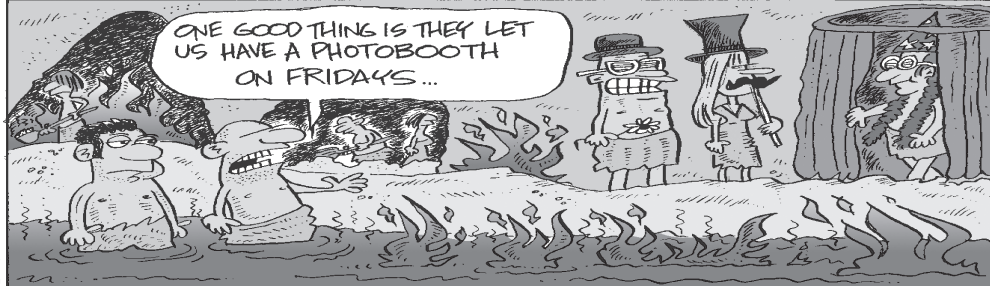


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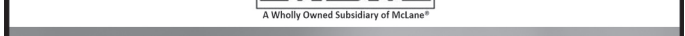
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Stickeler's Puzzle on Page 10

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Farm News

January 5-6, 2015

Kentucky Fruit & Vegetable Conference

The 2015 Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference will be held January 5-6, 2015 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Lexington, KY. The hotel is located just off Newtown Pike. This meeting will be of great benefit particularly for new growers that are considering growing and marketing a crop, as well as for experienced growers. We encourage fruit and vegetable growers in Estill County to attend this very informative meeting.

This year we have sessions on commercial fruit and vegetable production, organic production, farmers' markets, small fruit production, agritourism, direct and wholesale marketing, greenhouse and high tunnel production, and the Grape and Wine Short Course. Pre-conference Sunday evening sessions include tree fruit, small fruit, and vegetable round table discussions.

Pre-registration is requested by December 19 but on-site registration at conference is accepted. Program and registration forms can be found by going to UK Horticulture Department web site at: http://www.uky.edu/Ag/CCD/2015_KYFVC_Program_REG.pdf or call 270-365-7541 (dial extension 216).

If you need more information, contact the Estill County Extension Service at 606-723-4557.

Starting April 1, 2015

Beef Producers Approve Check Off

Kentucky beef cattle producers voted to assess themselves an additional \$1 per head on cattle marketed in Kentucky in a statewide referendum held in November.

The final tally was 1,816 in favor of the state check off and 1,423 against. The assessment will take effect April 1, 2015.

Producers who pay the assessment may request a refund from the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association in writing within 30 days of the date that the assessment is collected.

The Kentucky State Board of Agriculture called for the referendum in August at the request of the KCA. State law requires the Kentucky Department of Agriculture to carry out a referendum at the direction of the board.

In a letter to the board requesting the referendum, Dave Maples, executive vice president of the KCA, said the assessment would be used "to promote [and] stimulate, by research, market development, and education, the use and sale, domestic and foreign, of bovine animal products." The entire \$1 state check off will be used for programs in Kentucky, whereas the \$1 national check off is divided between the state and the national Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board.

For more information, contact Dave Maples at (859) 278-0899 or dmaples@kycattle.org.

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