



Harvesting Kentucky's Agriculture Heritage

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Harvesting Kentucky's Agriculture Heritage

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*There is nothing
like a dream to
create the future.*

- Victor Hugo

The Kentucky
Agriculture Heritage
Center (KAHC)

Board launched the new *Harvesting Kentucky's Agriculture Heritage* campaign with the announcement made by Dave Shuffett, host of KET's *Kentucky Life*, at the annual dinner in November.

The *Harvesting Kentucky's Agriculture Heritage* campaign was created to reach out to the farm families of Kentucky to help locate and eventually fill the Center with artifacts, photographs and stories about Kentucky agriculture.

"The stories surrounding our farm life are a priceless treasure," said Virginia Flanagan, KAHC Executive Director. "They represent our own family history and our state's agriculture history. What better way to form the setting for our Kentucky

Agriculture History
Museum?"

The mission of the Kentucky Agriculture Heritage Center is to create an environment for learning, reflecting on the past, showcasing the present and fostering the advancement of Kentucky Agriculture.

Harvesting Kentucky's Agriculture Heritage campaign is an effort to "humanize" or give life to the exhibits so visitors can gain an appreciation of how an exhibit item related to the farm or farm family.

The Naive Butter Churn

Jim Naive, a KAHC Board member, submitted one of the first farm stories about a family butter churn.



Jim Naive presents a family heirloom for the *Harvesting Kentucky Ag* project during the KAHC annual meeting.

The butter churn was used on a registered Jersey dairy farm, "Clean Acres," located in Woodford County on McCracken Pike three miles northwest of Versailles. The farm was owned and operated in the nineteen twenties and early thirties by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur B. Minor (Naive's Uncle and Aunt) and their son Joe Will.

Jersey milk is well known for its high butterfat content, so besides selling whole milk to commercial dairies, they produced butter and other dairy products to sell to

Executive Director Virginia Flanagan



Did anyone see what has happened to the economy coming? Certainly I think we all knew that we were living in a “shaky environment” financially last summer, but the sudden fall in Wall Street has been a little disconcerting.

Yet, the ups and downs of the economy have not deterred us from going forward with the Kentucky Agriculture Heritage Center project.

We are making plans for our comprehensive campaign and we are very pleased with the volunteers that have come forward to help serve with us on this effort. When we finally announce the leadership council, the national scope of the effort will be evident.

The KAHC project is being represented in many of the

state’s agriculture annual meetings. We have our display, our video and are enjoying the opportunity to share the mission of the Center with folks in the agriculture community.

The KAHC Board will begin meeting bimonthly starting in February. The Board felt that many decisions about internal arrangements will need to be made more frequently as we move closer to construction.

The Annual Meeting was a delight this year with great entertainment provided by Dave Shuffett, host of KET’s *Kentucky Life*, and No Tools Loaned bluegrass music group. Good food, good entertainment, and good friends always make a wonderful event.

The annual meeting gave the Board a chance to recognize individuals for their help

in fund raising this past year. Those recognized included: Ralph Anderson, Belcan Corporation; Dan Kelly, Senator for the 14th District; Milward Dedman, Representative for the 55th District; Harry Moberly, Representative for the 81st District, KY; Tom McKee, Representative for the 78th District, KY; and Roger Thomas, Executive Director, Governor’s Office of Ag Policy.

I’m excited to share with you in this newsletter the new Harvesting Kentucky’s Ag Heritage project. We are hoping to collect farm stories from Kentucky to begin looking at how our museum should be presented.

We want your family stories about events and artifacts that pertain to agriculture. What better way to tell our story than to tell it with



“I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a fabulous New Year!”

personal, true stories from our past?

If you have a story you would like to share, please contact us here at the KAHC office, and we will send you information on how to get it to us.

I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a fabulous New Year!

Annual Meeting Celebrating 2008



No Tools Loaned, a local bluegrass band provided entertainment.

Dave Shuffett, host of Kentucky Life shared his Kentucky stories.



Roger Thomas, executive director of the Governor’s Office of Ag Policy was recognized by KAHC board members for his support in 2008.



The annual meeting is always a great time for friends to catch up.



Margaret Lane gives greetings from the Board.

Meet the KAHC Board

Loretta Lyons

Loretta Baxter Lyons was born and raised on her family farm near the Cumberland River in Monroe County.

She began farming in 1961, when she and husband Hade Lyons bought their first 150 acres, while they were pursuing their college degrees to become teachers. The two worked and built a dairy farm, while also growing their family with three children Kerry, Kevin, and Kela.

In 1976, Loretta lost her husband to a heart attack, but with the support of her family she decided to make farming her full-time profession. Today, Lyons manages a contract dairy heifer raising program named Hade's Triple K Dairy Inc. after her husband and their three children.

"We sold our milk cows in 1999 and later we began raising dairy replacement heifers," said Lyons. "The operation began with about 110 calves and now we have

about 800 and 900 heifers at anytime."

The Lyons expanded Hade's Triple K Dairy to grain production after leasing a 300-acre grain farm in the spring of 2007. The entire operation covers 1,140 acres and includes the heifer, grain and hay production.

Along with farming full-time, Lyons has also been active volunteer in her community and an active member in a number of organizations including the Kentucky Master Farm Homemakers Guild and the Kentucky Women in Agriculture.

In 2006, she was asked to take another role in the state by becoming a founding board member on the Kentucky Ag Heritage Center board.

"I have to give Jim Naive all the credit for bringing me on the board," said Lyons laughing. "He called one



Ms. Loretta Lyons at Hade's Triple K Dairy Farm in Monroe County.

night and said we need you on this board, and I decided if Jim Naive thinks this is important then it has to be a good project."

Lyons says she has been happy with the overwhelming support she has seen from the agriculture community while serving on the KAHC board.

"I'm hoping I'll be able to take my grandchildren to the Center one day and tell them I was a part of this from the beginning," explained Lyons. "I believe that we are really building something that will give back to the state for generations to come."

KAHC Board

Chairperson
Margaret Lane

Vice Chairperson
Sam Moore

Secretary / Treasurer
Dr. Oran Little

Alice Baesler

Dennis Cannon

Lewis Furnish

Mark Haney

Libby Jones

Sam Lawson

Hilda Legg

Loretta Lyons

George Martin

Jim Naive

Roger Quarles

Dawn Riley

Billy Ray Smith

David Sparrow

Kentucky Farms Are Fun

The Kentucky Department of Agriculture is proud to host the *2009 Kentucky Agritourism Conference: Marketing Your Farm*, February 15-17 at the University Plaza Hotel & Conference Center in Bowling Green.

The *Marketing Your Farm Conference* will give Agritourism owners an opportunity to look at new ways to reach out to their markets and improve their Agritourism operations.

Conference sessions include topics such as marketing,



business development, and personnel management. For more information on the conference visit the Kentucky Farms Are Fun website.

Mission

The Kentucky Agriculture Heritage Center

is to create an environment for learning, reflecting on the past, showcasing the present, and fostering the advancement of Kentucky agriculture.

Harvesting...continued from cover

families in Versailles. In the story, Naive explained that weekly his cousin Joe Will would travel to Versailles to deliver butter, buttermilk, whole milk, cream, and cottage cheese.

One of the old sales ledgers shows the purchases of one of Joe Will's notable customers, Mrs. A.B. Chandler. A copy of her purchases during July, August, and September 1931 shows that butter was 35 cents per pound and buttermilk was 5 cents a quart. Naive also noted

that during this period, Chandler's household used 15 pounds of butter and 28 quarts of buttermilk.

During July through September 1931 this churn produced a total of 800+ pounds of butter as well as a lot of exercise.

Your Family Story

If you have an item that you believe would be of interest, the KAHC Board asks you to submit a short story and a photograph, telling when the item was used on the farm or in the home and

experiences that were associated with its use.

At this time the KAHC Board does not want to take possession of those items that are donated or made available for loan but would like to begin compiling a record of what donations will be available when the Center is projected to be complete.

If you would like to submit your story and item photo to the KAHC Board please contact the KAHC office for a form.

Newsletter designed by Keeton Communications



**Kentucky Agriculture
Heritage Center
(859) 733-0701**

**Executive Director
Virginia Flanagan**

**Office Manager
Paula Pinkston**

**Visit us on the Web at
www.kyagheritage.org**

**Kentucky Agriculture
Heritage Center
2805 Louisville Road
Harrodsburg, KY 40330**