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Farm Update

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AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES
EDUCATION

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In 1975 Gerald Ford was president, Jaws was in the movies, and Microsoft became a business. 1975 was also the beginning of a tradition that will celebrate 50 annual meetings this Wednesday, January 31st, at the Owensboro Convention Center, Ag Expo. Called Grain Day until 1995, this event has been held rain, snow, or shine every year. The only exception was the 2009 ice storm, which came down the night before the event. In 2021, a virtual Ag Expo was conducted during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Most importantly, Ag Expo would not be possible without the support of our business sponsors. We appreciate their participation.

A lot has changed in agriculture in our area since 1975, but much remains the same. The following is the 1975 Daviess County Crop Year in Review written by Tom Curtsinger, Daviess County Extension Agent, George Kelley, instructor for the Daviess County Adult Farm Program, and Paul L. Irish, Agronomist for Miles Farms Inc.

1975 was a good crop year in Daviess County, Kentucky, and surrounding areas. As usual, the seasonal problems arrived unscheduled.

Cutworms in the corn fields were frustrating, both in quantity and control. Some fields were replanted, others regenerated in the early vegetative stages, while we took our lumps and plants per acre loss in still other fields. This was one area that Furadan, in the lower amounts used, did not satisfactorily control the problem.

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The European Corn Borer came in increasing numbers both in first and second broods and were responsible for a good percentage of down corn. This problem can be better controlled in the 1976 corn crop through closer observation of the infestation during the latter part of May.

During July and August, prolonged heat and drought were critical in later corn development. Root and stalk rot were rampant. Certain varieties showed a very good degree of tolerance to this rot. Leaf blights in corn were acceptable seemingly the last dry season minimized sporulation. Pod and stem blight were observed in many soybean fields, fortunately, this came late in the season, and yield was not noticeably affected.

A hard hailstorm in a narrow swath across the southern part of the county caused yield reductions in corn, soybeans, and tobacco. The degree of losses was associated with the stage of maturity in these crops.

Despite the trials described in the review, Charles Dan Thompson of Curdsville was King Corn in 1975 with a yield of 216.23 bushels per acre! Charles and David Hayden of Sutherland were Boss Bean that year with a yield of 62.77 bushels per acre!

This year, the planning committee has worked hard to make the 50th anniversary Ag Expo special. The doors open Wednesday at 7:30 am for the trade show, with some tractors built in the 1975 period on display beside the new models available today. Fried chicken is on the menu, just like the first Grain Day.

The educational program begins at 8:30 am with the grain market outlook presented by Dr. Grant Gardner, Extension Grain Marketing Specialist. Others on the program include Steve Blandford, State soil scientist for USDA discussing the importance of soil health, Dr. Kiersten Wise on the topic of corn disease management and fungicide. Dr. Jordan Schockley will give an

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update on the carbon sequestration markets. Tim Farmer, longtime KET host will speak at lunch. Following lunch, the topic of increasing property insurance premiums will be discussed in a panel discussion. The substantial storm losses combined with replacement cost inflation have put a significant burden on the insurance industry. Attendees will gain insight into what is expected to come for insurance expenses.

As mentioned last week, all are invited to attend the Daviess County Agricultural Visionaries Hall of Fame 2024 inductee reception Tuesday evening from 5 to 6:30 pm

Private Pesticide Applicator Training

There will be a private pesticide applicator training next Monday, January 29 at 6:00 pm at the Daviess County Extension office.

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