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Priority: Reviving the farm economy

By Hank Bond
of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

CARLISLE, KY — Outside the temperature soared near 100 degrees.

There has been no measurable rain in weeks, and farmers all across Kentucky are wondering if there will ever be relief.

Inside the Carlisle Depot the mood was somber, yet optimistic. Representatives from eight county governments had gathered in the historic building to hear a plan, which just might bring the farming industry back from its struggling knees and put some life back into the economy of their counties.

Judge executives or their representatives from Nicholas, Bath, Montgomery, Fleming, Harrison, Robertson, Bracken, and Pendleton counties, spokespersons for U.S. Senators Wendell Ford and Mitch McConnell, State Senator Ed Ford, State Representative Adrian Arnold, a representative of the Gateway Area Development Council, a drug store owner, a newspaper owner, a spokesman from Lt. Governor Breeston Jones' office, a bank owner and a bank president, a corporate CEO and others.

The room was filled with a quiet desperation... a common goal... finding a way to put life back into the farming business in the counties represented.

There was no doubt it was a unique unity very much in evidence in that room.

The man who had called these people together was Tom Hensley. Hensley, a Nicholas County farmer, and retired Western Auto supervisor, has taken on as a personal challenge a program of such magnitude it is nearly impossible to imagine one person putting a

program together this large.

"Facing to the great needs of our communities, and we all have a lasting interest in agriculture," Hensley said, in beginning his presentation.

"We're at a crossroads for Kentucky and Kentucky's farmers, and we cannot be satisfied with importing more than 90 percent of what we need, when we can produce this right here where we live... at least a large portion of it.

"The program I plan to outline will not only make farming flourish in our counties, but will provide jobs and make us revenue producers, not revenue consumers."

Hensley shifted from foot to foot as he continued to hammer his points home to the gathering.

"In making such county... all representatives... to join hands and cooperate. We must restore Kentucky farms and Kentucky farmers to their rightful place in society.

"The real factor here is time," he continued. "We must act now. We don't have time to wait until 1990. Yes, we are interested in programs for 1990, but we have to have some action in 1988.

"The drought we're going through makes things worse. Time is not on our side. In 1987, 40,000 farmers quit farming... that's one every seven minutes." He said a hush crowd.

"In Kentucky 75 percent of our milk is imported, but we continue to pay farmers not to produce.

"There's not one packing house in Kentucky. There's not one potato processing plant in Kentucky. In the eight counties represented here there is a population I over 100,000," Hensley said.

"Kentucky farmers must produce food. There's no leadership for farmers. And as the farms continue to die, there's more and more grass growing in the streets of our towns.

"Economic development must begin on our farms. We're at the

doorway of opportunity. I'm asking for a commitment today. I want you to ask, 'What can I do?'

Hensley then outlined his proposed program.

"We need grants and other financial help to establish chicken production in the eight county area. We want production of at least 100,000 chickens per county, every eight weeks.

"This would require at least four production units per county at a cost to build and equip of about \$80,000 per unit.

"We need a preparation unit to prepare the chickens for market. Estimated cost to equip and build, \$1 million.

"We need a hatchery located in the area that can produce from 5-8 million chicks a year, plus a laying flock to produce the eggs for the

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- ### Potential Benefits
- Sale locally of chickens to Druthers and Bob's Poultry and Eggs.
 - Put land into production. Grow feed locally, grind locally.
 - Up to 1000 jobs in each county
 - Benefits available to counties, state, and entire county.
 - Become revenue producers not revenue consumers

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Steps may be taken to improve security

By Hank Bond
of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

There could be a new security system in place in the near future in all Nicholas County school buildings.

Nicholas County Board of Education heard a proposal from Hessel Lewellen of National Guardian Security Systems for a comprehensive security system for all Nicholas County school buildings.

The 24-hour-a-day system would provide comprehensive security for the system.

The board indicated in its discussion of the proposal it will schedule a special meeting within days to act on the plan, once internal details have been established.

The move to consider a security system was spurred by recent break-ins at the high school.

Superintendent Donald Elder said he feels some security measures are necessary to protect the board's and ultimately the community's property.

Although security measures have been stepped up since the break-ins, the system would offer year-round protection.

In other action the board deflected S.S. John Chavers and Jimmy Dan Anderson for Billy Hunter and Herbert Duncan against a riot along a 840 raise for secretary Shirley Collins. She had approached the board for the increase citing additional job responsibilities.

Agenda normal

Routine action dominated the remainder of the agenda.

The board voted to:

- accept the treasurer's report, showing a year ending actual balance of \$242,835.22, \$78,000 more than the beginning balance

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Tracy Dotson, a graduate of Nicholas County High School and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Dotson, was crowned Blackberry Festival Queen at the parade held July 7. Hank Bond Photo.



The sky is falling, but a strong wind did take the roof on Heid and Vice for a ride on the evening of July 10, and eventually set the top end for a rest in the street. Workers were busily working to remove the debris the next morning. Power was restored to the area and Heid and Vice was open for business. - Heather Mathes Photo.

Violent winds cause damage

By Heather Mathes
of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

According to eye witnesses at the scene, the roof on Heid and Vice was ripped from the site by an unusually strong wind. Toby Sparks, an employee of Heid and Vice, said, "The people that were there to see it, which included some of the firemen, said that a strong wind lifted all four corners of the roof just like a human hand, completely intact, flipped it in mid-air and set it down in the street."

The roof was not only intact, but according to Sparks, most boards were not even splintered until the final contact with the street.

She said, "The roof that was removed by the wind was a metal roof built over a flat roof for leak reasons."

"We did suffer some structural damage as some of the bricks were ripped off customers, according to Sparks, just using the back door."

Power lines were also downed and those in the area were without service until power was restored by a Kentucky Utilities repairman.

Heid and Vice Incorporated is open for business, with the bricks were ripped off customers, according to Sparks, just using the back door.

Nicholas part of federal plan

United States Senator Mitch McConnell, has announced 14 drought-stricken counties had been approved by the Secretary of Agriculture for the Emergency Feed Program and the Emergency Feed Assistance Program.

Nicholas County is one of the 14 approved counties.

The Emergency Feed Assistance Program provides farmers who have lost at least 60 percent of their feed production due to the drought with federally-owned grain at a price equal to 75 percent of the county loan rate.

The Emergency Feed Program provides farmers who meet the same eligibility criteria with one acre FFR certificates in an amount equal to 50% of the cost of feed purchased.

Farmers must apply through their county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service office.

Other counties approved for these programs are: Adair, Allen, Bourbon, Clinton, Cumberland, Hardin, Hickman, Marion, Menard, Shelby, Todd, Warren, and Washington.

For additional information visit the Nicholas County ASCS office in Carlisle, at 600 Moorefield Road or call, 289-2234.

Signups available

Signups are available for soil samples at the ASCS office to base fall seeding decisions. The signups run until July 31.

The conservation reserve program will be in a signup period from July 18 until August 8. This program takes crop land out of production for 10 years.

Oregon hay available for Nicholas farmers

Farmers in need of hay both now and for winter feed supply need to contact the Nicholas County Extension office by NOON Friday, JULY 15. The telephone number is 289-2312.

There will be three varieties of hay shipped from Oregon, which include alfalfa, \$120-\$125 per ton; mixed hay - 15 to 16 protein, \$110 per ton and eye grass hay - \$100 per ton.

Money will have to paid up front in order to get hay shipped.

Extended Weather

Thursday though Saturday Hot and humid Thursday. A chance of thunderstorms Friday ending Saturday. Highs in the 90s Thursday, in the mid 80s to lower 90s Friday and Saturday. Lows in the mid 60s to lower 70s.