

MESSENGER-INQUIRER

January 24, 2026

Grain Day Legacy Series – Marketing and Management

The Grain Day Legacy Series continues next Wednesday, January 28, at 8:30 a.m. in the Humanities Building Blandford Lecture Hall on the campus of Owensboro Community and Technical College. Dr. David Kohl, Professor Emeritus of Agricultural and Applied Economics at Virginia Tech, and Dr. Grant Gardner, Extension grain marketing specialist at the University of Kentucky, will present timely insights, including Dr. Kohl's session, "Business and Financial Tools for Turbulent Times." Dr. Gardner will discuss the grain ending stocks, market outlook, and marketing plans for the crop in storage and the one to soon be planted. The meeting will conclude with lunch across the campus at my office, sponsored by several supporting businesses. Call the office Monday to register at 270 685-8480 or email me at chardy@uky.edu to let us know how many to plan on for lunch.

Daviess County Agricultural Hall of Fame

Daviess County is home to generations of agriculturally affiliated people and businesses who were, or are, leaders in their farm, family, and community. In an effort to honor those people and businesses, the Daviess County Agricultural Hall of Fame was created in 2022. The mission of the Daviess County Agricultural Hall of Fame is to recognize visionaries, founders, servants, and innovators of agriculture in Daviess County. The Agricultural Visionaries Committee has submitted two inductees for the fourth class.

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The production innovation category recognizes people who experienced risk with acceptance and demonstration of new farming production enterprises and techniques that led to wide adoption and improved lives and opportunities for farm families in the region, Joe Elliott.

Joe Elliott grew corn and soybeans, but tobacco production was his passion. Always seeking to increase labor efficiency and improve yields, Joe's farm was available to demonstrate new techniques. He was among the first to grow plants floating in beds of water. These plant-filled trays required much less labor to transport and transplant tobacco. With the success of floating tobacco trays, Joe Elliott was among the first to construct a greenhouse system for these water beds. He was also the first to construct tobacco barns without tier railing. The modern cable hoist curing system increased worker safety and reduced the number of hours required to hang tobacco. A motorized machine that was made for cutting tobacco was introduced at the Elliott Farm. But that idea never caught on with the farmers.

Joe was one of the primary leaders among Kentucky agriculture business employers in the area of recruitment, hiring, and housing of guest workers. He treated his employees as family and cared about their needs as much as his business needs. He received the Kentucky Department for Employment Services Employer Achievement Award.

People honored in the service category led successful careers in the agricultural service sector, whose efforts led to improved lives and opportunities for farm families in the region, Anthony Bittel. Anthony "Tony" Bittel was a prominent farmer of tobacco, livestock, and grain, including hybrid seed corn and soybean seed, available to neighboring farms. He realized the importance of leadership in the community.

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He was a charter member of the Daviess County Lions Club, holding numerous offices, working fervently on the Daviess County Fair and other club projects. In 1999, the Lions honored him by naming their new meeting hall the Anthony Bittel Building.

Anthony Bittel was named Honorary Chapter Farmer for his work with the 4-H and Future Farmers of America tobacco sales. He was chairman of the Planning and Zoning Association from 1968 to 1970. He was among the first directors of the Kentuckiana Livestock Market. His contribution to the community continued through his service on the Brescia University Board of Directors, Owensboro Tobacco Board of Trade, and the Owensboro-Daviess County Chamber of Commerce Board.

All are welcome to attend a public reception to honor their contribution to agriculture next Tuesday, January 27, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the agriculture hall of fame gallery at the Owensboro Museum of Science and History, downtown Owensboro.

Private Pesticide Applicator Certification

There will be a private pesticide applicator certification meeting next Monday, January 26, at 6:00 p.m. at the Daviess County Cooperative Extension Office.

This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider.