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Forum focus: Boone farming issues

BY MARK HANSEL • MHANSEL@NKY.COM • SEPTEMBER 20, 2010

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BOONE COUNTY - A series of forums focusing on agricultural issues in Boone County begins next month with a discussion about tax assessments.

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Boone County Property Valuation Administrator Cindy Rich will be the featured speaker and will explain how assessments are made on agricultural properties in the county.

The forum will take place at 7 p.m. Oct. 5 in the Ferguson Room of the Boone County Extension Center, 6028 Camp Ernst Road in Burlington.

The discussion topic was identified from comments received through a farm study that was conducted earlier this year.

The study, which was presented at the Boone County Public Library on Sept. 1, consisted of three parts: an agricultural industry profile, a cost of community services study, and a survey of agricultural landowners.

The agricultural industry profile indicated that 47 percent of the county's land and more than 246 square miles is in farms.

Boone County also has a larger number of farms, more acres of land in farms, and a larger average farm size than the neighboring counties of Kenton and Campbell. The top crop items in Boone County, in terms of acreage, were forage, soybeans, corn for grain, tobacco and nursery stock. The leading products for livestock inventories were cattle and calves, horses and ponies, chickens, all goats and sheep and lambs.

A survey of the agricultural landowners in Boone County was conducted to determine if programs to help strengthen the agricultural community would be welcomed and to identify ways to make them more effective. The survey was mailed to 1,669 landowners, of which 340 responded and provided information. The survey requested information about residents, current land use, plans for future land use and views on agriculture in Boone County.

A limited number of print copies of the study are available through the conservation district office. The study is also posted on the Boone County Conservation District web site .

The forums are designed to further efforts to validate the place of agriculture in Boone County's economy, support and enhance the agricultural industry, and promote the fiscal impacts and environmental and other benefits of the county's agricultural community.

Reservations are not required for the forum, but are requested to assist with planning. For more information, contact the Boone County Conservation District at 859-586-7903.

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