

## **Rural Treasure - The State of Boone County Agriculture**

Boone County farm study to be released Sept. 1

*Florence, KY* - The Boone County Farm Initiative will release results of a recent study to assess the current status of agriculture in Boone County. The study will be released during an open house on Wed., Sept. 1, 2010, at the Boone County Public Library, 1786 Burlington Pike, Florence, beginning at 5:00 p.m., with a presentation at 7:00 p.m.

The study includes a profile of the county's agriculture industry, results from a survey of Boone County farmers, and a Cost of Community Services Study that shows a snapshot in time of the impact of agriculture on the county's economy. Presenters during the 7:00 p.m. session will include Sarah Hume, an independent researcher from Campbell County; Dr. Alison Davis, Department of Agricultural Economics with the University of Kentucky; and Dr. Julie Zimmerman, Department of Rural Sociology & Community and Leadership Development, also with the University of Kentucky.

Jim Walton, chair of the Boone County Conservation District, said that the Initiative was started to bring together groups and individuals with a heartfelt interest in preserving the agricultural community of Boone County for present and future generations. The district board envisions that this initiative will result in opportunities to not only ensure a future base of land available for food and fiber production, but will raise public awareness about the many contributions that agriculture makes to the county. Members of the Initiative include representatives from the Boone County Cooperative Extension Service, Boone County Farm Bureau, Northern Kentucky Horse Network, Northern Kentucky Cattle Association, interested citizens, and the Conservation District. The study was funded by a grant from the Kentucky Soil and Water Commission.

Refreshments will be served during the open house from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. and will include samplings of some of Boone County's local produce. There will be displays featuring highlights from the farm study as well as exhibits from county agricultural organizations and businesses. A RSVP is not required. For more information, contact the Boone County Conservation District at 859-586-7903 or by E-mail: [mary.dickerson@ky.nacdnet.net](mailto:mary.dickerson@ky.nacdnet.net).