

# Homeplace Plow Day is Saturday

BY GEORGE KOLBEN-SCHLAG  
SPECIAL TO THE R-H

The horse and mule plow teams, antique tractors, artists and crafters, exhibitors and an assortment of family activities will be at Homeplace on Green River for the annual plow day/spring festival Saturday, April 27 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. ET.

This will be the ninth year for the spring festival at Homeplace.

The first spring festival at Homeplace in 2012 drew 900 people. In subsequent years, the annual spring festival has grown. Last year an estimated 2,500 attended and if the weather cooperates, this coming festival should exceed that number.

The first spring festival was the result of an invitation to host the well-established tractor show that was first organized in 1997 by Adair Countian

Lewis Garrison. The tractor show was held each year at Mr. Garrison's farm, but its success made it hard to host so many people and tractors.

When Mr. Garrison asked if Homeplace would host the show the board enthusiastically agreed, and the spring fest at Homeplace joined the long-established fall heritage festival. But by 2015 there were fewer tractors, and the board decided to replace the tractor show with a plow day, and that year twelve horse and mule teams demonstrated their plowing skills while families enjoyed a variety of early Kentucky farm demonstrations, family activities, Kentucky made arts and crafts and good food.

This year there will be more artists and crafters, more folks demonstrating farm and early Kentucky crafts and skills, more exhibitors, more food

vendors and, no doubt, more families enjoying the festival. Three years ago, the tractors came back to join the plow teams and other festival activities.

There were 14 horse and mule plow teams last year and double that number plan to be there for this year's festival. There will also be a large contingent of antique tractors. Last year there were 20, this year more are expected. There will be Kentucky arts and crafts and a variety of food items. In year's pasts, the line was long for the kiddie barrel train so this year there will be two barrel trains. There will be face painting, Native American arts, colonial reenactors, hay rides, sheepshearing, pottery making, horseshoeing and opportunities to see what life was like on the farm many years ago. At least 20 folks will be demonstrating their skill in everything from butter-making to horseshoeing. At least

27 Kentucky artists and crafters will be showing and selling their work and nine food vendors will be selling tenderloin, pulled pork, fish and other sandwiches, ice cream, cotton candy and other goodies. There will be hayrides, a petting zoo, two barrel trains for the youngsters and live music will be keeping the show barn lively with the music of the Exie Boys, Renetta and Friends, Retro Faith Gospel, Killin' Time and Leah Hayes and Benson Sexton.

The cost for the day is only \$10 per car including occupants. All of the activities are included except purchases from vendors.

Homeplace is located on KY Highway 55 between Campbells-ville and Columbia at 5807 Columbia Road, Campbellsville, KY 42718. There are signs at the location. For additional information go to [www.homeplace-farmky.org](http://www.homeplace-farmky.org).

## Find Your Mentor

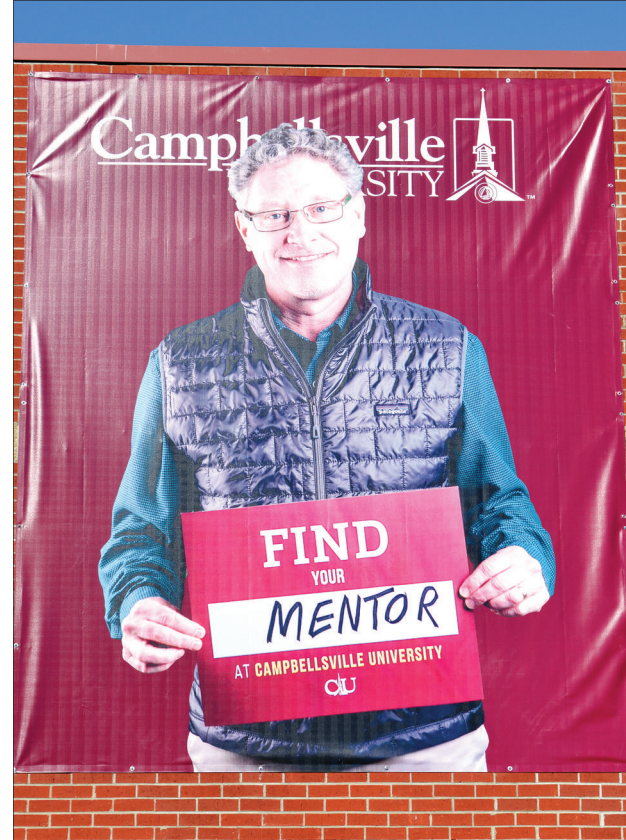


Photo by Walt Gorin

Dr. Richie Kessler, a native of Green County, is featured on one of the new banners placed around the campus of Campbellsville University. His is on the E. Bruce Heilman Student Complex. The banners show different phrases that students and faculty, staff and coaches epitomize concerning the university's "Find Your Calling" theme. Kessler's is "Find Your Mentor." Kessler is associate professor of biology/environmental studies program coordinator at Campbellsville University.



Ronnie Russell, of Exie, worked his pair of mules in a plowing demonstration at the 2018 Plow Day.

# Kentucky Afield: Be Bear Aware

BY JOHN HAST  
KY AFIELD OUTDOORS

The arrival of spring means bear activity is on the rise in Kentucky. An increase in activity can also mean an increase in bear complaints for those living in areas with established populations.

For those experiencing bear problems, it may be easier to change your own habits, rather than trying to change the bear's habits.

Most bear problems center around food, according to John Hast, bear program coordinator for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. To a bear, your garbage or an open dumpster can equate to a quick and easy meal. Even food scraps thrown out to bears in parks can create a problem.

"We've found that time and time again, a fed bear is a dead bear," Hast said. "A bear that is used to human food, whether it's scraps or garbage, begins to lose its fear of people. And that's where the problems begin."

Department staff must euthanize a few bears each year because they presented a potential danger to the public after being fed by humans. Hast said communities working together can prevent this kind of outcome.

"How can people help keep the wild in wildlife?" Hast said.

"The solution can be as easy as not putting your garbage out until the morning it's picked up. A garbage can set out overnight is a tempting target for a bear, and teaches them that humans are a source of food."

The need for bear awareness extends beyond the mountains of eastern Kentucky as the state's bear population expands. Because young male bears displaced from their home areas may wander widely in the spring and summer, it's possible to see a roaming bear anywhere in the state. Several young, male bears typically make their way through the Bluegrass region each summer offering a few fleeting glances for folks along the way.

"Most of the bears that travel though central and west Kentucky are typically males that got kicked out of the breeding range in the mountains during May and June," Hast said. "We had several bears move through central Kentucky last summer, and a few others that remained in western Kentucky through the fall months."

Residents in bear areas can do more than just keep their garbage in a secure location until pickup. Other suggestions for making an area less attractive to bears include:

- Only feeding outside pets what they will

eat at one sitting, and not leaving pet food out overnight.

- Removing birdfeeders in spring and summer. Birds have plenty of natural foods available at this time of year.

- Keeping grills clean and changing drip pans frequently.

- Throwing food scraps in the trash, not a yard or fire pit.

- Surrounding beehives with an electric fence.

Feeding a bear is against the law in Kentucky. Call 1-800-25-ALERT if you spot someone do-

ing this.

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife maintains an extensive amount of information on its website. Visit [fw.ky.gov](http://fw.ky.gov) and search "black bear" or go to [www.bearwise.org](http://www.bearwise.org).

"We all can help wildlife remain wild by being responsible with our food scraps and garbage," said Hast. "A few small changes in our habits, like keeping garbage secure and inaccessible, can keep bears, coyotes and other animals that are only looking for an easy meal from becoming a nuisance."

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