

## Peggy's Ponderings

Well, it's a rainy, wet, and sodden day here on Circle S Farms. We begged and prayed for rain so long for the past few months and now it seems as if God has opened the heavens and we are drenched.

We were concerned about our big black cows as the grass was not growing enough to make the hay and fodder for all the big bovines to munch on. And there are so many babies being born this spring, the grasslands are so needed.

We were sitting in our favorite place, our big back porch one late evening and right across the fence, right behind our little red horse barn, we saw one of the big mama cows giving birth to a small black baby with a white face. It is still as if I am somehow privy to a miracle. And those mamas are so territorial when it comes to getting close to their offspring. I remember once when a baby had fallen into

a water-filled ditch and as my husband began to help the young calf to freedom, the mama charged him with her head down and nostrils flaring. It didn't take him long to retreat to the back of the pickup truck.

We had a new baby born several months ago and the mama fell into a ditch and drowned so we tried to get a new mama to feed the orphan but, not so my grandson bottle fed her for several months. Every new mama KNOWS her baby just like we know our babies.

My grandmother had a milk cow, only one, when I was growing up and I was so afraid of her. I watched her milk the old cow and how Bossy just stood there and was so complacent. She would always ask me if I wanted to milk the big cow and my answer was always NO.

Now after living out here on the farm for several years, the many black cows are not as scary to me. I can walk in and out of their

feeding grounds and territory without wanting to defend myself that is unless I reach to pat or touch her baby. My granddaughter, Emmie Jo just goes out riding her four-wheeler all around them and the never stop their munching.

I told my husband that sometimes being out here on the farm makes me feel rather sad for all the young kids that have never had the opportunity to have the chance to have someone with a farm and be introduced to the life on a working ranch and farm. There are so many wonders and good things that take place everyday out here. Just come on down and see how good it is and let's sit on the back porch and have that glass of sweet tea.

Our squash is coming in by the bagsful and we love this vegetable. My husband loves it sliced thin and fried with fish seasoning, but I'd rather have it fixed this way

Cut up as many squash as you think you will need, remember they are water-filled so that will cook down. Cook a piece of bacon and one chopped onion in a skillet until tender and then add your cup up squash brown on both sides and turton simmer and let simmer for an hour. Season with salt and pepper.

*Peggy Sims is a life-long resident of Attala County and columnist.*



Peggy Sims

## Conservation Corner

by James Cummins  
Executive Director  
of Wildlife Mississippi

### Wildlife Habitat Seed Available

Whether you are a photographer, a hunter, or just like viewing wildlife on a sunny afternoon, anyone who has spent time overlooking a food plot will have a deep appreciation for wildlife plantings.

Food plots are very attractive to wildlife enthusiasts because they can supplement daily nutritional needs at a low cost. These plots can be designed to serve as a source of food and cover. Well-managed food plots have the potential to not only increase the wildlife population and their quality of health but can also increase our opportunities for wildlife viewing.

To aid landowners who would like to plant wildlife food plots, Wildlife Mississippi is continuing its popular Wildlife Habitat Seed Program. Through this program, Wildlife Mississippi will make wheat available at a minimal cost.

The Wildlife Habitat Seed Program is designed to provide an incentive for landowners to establish and maintain food plots that will yield a variety of benefits to

the landowner as well as to the species of wildlife he or she is managing.

Winter wheat seed will be available through the 2026 Fall Wildlife Habitat Seed Program. All seeds are treated and have excellent germination rates. Wildlife Mississippi will distribute the seed around mid to late September.

If planted properly, the various types of seed will be utilized by a variety of species of wildlife. White-tailed deer, turkeys, bobwhite quail, mourning doves, waterfowl, and many species of songbirds will benefit from the plantings of the wheat.

The guidelines regarding this program are simple and easy to follow. Anyone interested in obtaining seed should send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Wildlife Mississippi with a request for an order form, an affidavit (affirming food plot usage), and planting recommendations for the seed. Wildlife Mississippi will be taking orders until August 1, 2026. NO ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT THE SIGNED AFFIDAVIT. Or-

ders are fulfilled on a first come, first serve basis.

Shipping and handling charges incurred by Wildlife Mississippi are included in the price of the wheat. The cost for winter wheat is \$12.00 per 50 lb. bag plus sales tax. Pick up locations in Mississippi will be Amory, Flowood, Stoneville, and Purvis.

For an order form and planting recommendations for this beneficial program, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Wildlife Mississippi, PO Box 10, Stoneville, MS 38776. If you wish to place your order online, please visit our website at [www.wildlifemiss.org](http://www.wildlifemiss.org).

## New Subscribers & Renewals

The *Holmes County Herald* would like to welcome the following new subscribers: Mrs. Philip Abel, Lexington; Linda Brooks, Tennessee; Mary Alexander, Tennessee; Anita Jackson, Jackson.

### RENEWALS

The *Holmes County Herald* thanks the following subscribers for their renewals: Bonnie Haffey, Lexington; Bilbrew Consulting Services, LLC, Canton; Milton Suggs, Kentucky;

# Fuel Up With These Gas Station Facts

by Bennett Kleinman

Filling up your gas tank may feel like second nature, but have you ever stopped to wonder how gas stations actually set their prices? It's just one of many fascinating behind-the-scenes details about these petrol providers.

You may also be surprised to learn that these businesses don't make the majority of their profit from gasoline, or where you can find America's giant gas stations with more than 100 pumps. Here are five facts about gas stations that will fuel your thirst for knowledge.

**Four Factors Largely Determine the Cost of Gasoline**

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the price of retail gasoline is determined by a combination of four factors: the price of crude oil, taxes, refining costs and profits, and distribution and marketing costs. Crude oil makes up more than half the cost of regular gasoline; in January 2026, it accounted for 51%, with refining costs making up 20%, taxes 18%, and distribution and marketing costs 11%. The total cost of diesel, on the other hand, was 41% crude oil, 24% distribution and marketing costs, 18% refining costs, and 17% taxes.

Each of those four factors is impacted by additional subfactors. According to the American Petroleum Institute, the price of crude oil can be affected by global supply and demand, geopolitical developments, available inventories, and

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transportation costs, just to name a few. Then there are taxes, which combine the federal gasoline tax of 18.4 cents per gallon with local gasoline taxes (adding as little as \$0.0895 per gallon in Alaska up to \$0.7092 in California).

Refining costs are affected by operational costs at gasoline refineries, while distribution and marketing costs take into account the cost of transport, delivery, plus the overhead costs of running a gas station. Based on those ever-changing parameters, gas stations typically adjust their gas prices several times per week.

**The World's Largest Gas Stations Contain 120 Pumps**

Buc-ee's is a popular Texas-based U.S. gas station and convenience store chain that's renowned for its pristine bathrooms, mouthwatering brisket, and seemingly endless line of gas pumps. Two Buc-ee's franchises currently hold the record for the most gas pumps at 120. One is in Luling, Texas, where the 120 pumps are accompanied by a 75,593-square-foot retail space. The other location with 120 fueling slots is located in Sevierville, Tennessee.

Two other planned locations will soon be co-record holders: One opens in June 2026 in Goodyear, Arizona, while another location with 120 gas pumps is planned to open in Oak Creek, Wisconsin in early 2027.

**Most U.S. Gas Stations Make Less Than Half Their Profit From Gasoline**

An estimated 80% of retail gasoline in the U.S. is sold at gas stations that also include a convenience store. And the sales from those stores actually make up most of the profits. While fuel sales account for 65% of the total sales at retail gas stations, the owners turn a profit of only \$0.03 to \$0.07 off each gallon of gas they sell. Those thin margins mean fuel sales account for just 38.8% of a gas station's actual profit, according to a 2025 study from the National Association of Convenience Stores.

The study found that 38.9% of a gas station/convenience store business' sales comes from food and drink sales, but with much higher profit margins. More than 73% of those sales are from prepared foods such as pizza, wraps, and sandwiches. That's followed by packaged beverages, then snacks such as beef jerky and nuts, and finally sales from tobacco, merchandise,

ATM fees, lottery tickets, and other common gas station purchases.

**KFC Started in a Gas Station**

Though it's become a global fast food juggernaut with more than 30,000 locations, Kentucky Fried Chicken started as a humble one-man operation out of a Kentucky gas station. In 1930, Harland Sanders — aka Colonel Sanders — was brought in to run a Shell gas station located on U.S. Route 25 near a place called North Corbin. But Sanders didn't just sell gasoline; he also began whipping up fried chicken for hungry drivers.

The Colonel converted a storeroom into a dining area capable of seating six people and started selling meals such as steak, country ham, and his ultra-popular fried chicken. In 1937, the service station was converted into Sanders Café, which burned down in 1939, though it was later rebuilt as a restaurant and motel complex in 1940.

Sanders remained there until 1956, when he left the business to begin franchising KFC locations. The original location was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1990 and has since been repurposed into the Sanders Café and Museum. Vintage gas pumps on site pay homage to KFC's roots, though the pumps themselves are no longer operational.

**It's Illegal To Pump Your Own Gas in New Jersey**

In 1968, it was illegal to pump your own gas in 23 states, as doing so was considered a fire hazard. But almost all those self-service bans were repealed, with Oregon being the most recent state to do so in August 2023. This leaves just one state that bans pumping your own gasoline to this day: New Jersey.

If you're looking to fill up in the Garden State, you have no choice but to let attendants pump your gasoline. The reason for this can be found in the Retail Gasoline Dispensing Safety Act of 1949, which states, "Because of the fire hazards associated with dispensing fuel, it is in the public interest that gasoline station operators have the control needed over that activity to ensure compliance with appropriate safety procedures."

New Jersey gas stations that allow customers to pump their gas are fined \$250 for their first offense and up to \$500 for each subsequent offense.