Fairview Produce Auction was formed by a group of Mennonite farmers who moved to Western Kentucky from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The auction emulated auctions in Mennonite and Amish communities in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Missouri. Fairview Produce Auction is a LLC partnership owned by approximately 50 individuals, most of which are local farmers. It is operated by a five man board, business manager and employees.

The Fairview Produce Auction began operating in 1997, serving surrounding communities with quality produce and other items. The intent of the Auction is not only to provide for the consumer, but to offer marketing opportunities for the producers. Our target audience consists of growers of the various commodities, particularly among the Amish and Mennonite communities, and consumers from across the spectrum.

The auction grew from less than $100,000 in total sales during 1997 to $330,000 in 1999. By 2006, produce and flower sales had increased to about $1 million. Sales leveled out during a following drought year, then increased each year since, to over $3 million in 2014. There hasn't been a losing season since the start of the Auction.

Many people with roadside markets, stores, and stands find the auction the perfect place to go to buy a large selection of fresh, local, high quality produce. Many are also discovering the beautiful selections of bedding plants, potted flowers, and unique planters at the spring sales. Fairview Produce Auction is also rapidly becoming a major hay and straw market in southwest Kentucky. Like the produce sales, the hay sales continue to be successful. From November to March, consist of the hay sales and firewood. Flower and bedding plant sales take place from Mid-March to Mid-May. Produce is in season from April through October. Farm Machinery sales are on the first Saturday in March and the last Saturday in September.

Since the Auction's beginnings, Extension has worked closely with producers who are supplying the auction in the areas of fertility, disease, and insect management to ensure both the quality and quantity produce and flowers that the Auction has become known for. Extension's involvement with the Fairview Produce Auction also includes the following:

- In 1998 the first Method demonstration field day was held at the Fairview Produce Auction, which included tours of surrounding farms.
- In 2000, Extension worked with the Fairview Produce Auction Board of Directors to form the Education Committee which would work in giving direction to Extension as to the needs of Growers and the Auction's Future Expansions.
- From 2001-2003 Extension worked closely with Auction leadership to identify potential markets throughout Kentucky and surrounding states for bulk, wholesale sales.

If you are thinking about starting a produce auction in your area, reach out to the Agents from Christian and Todd County Extension Offices learn more. Another great resource is this publication from the UK Center for Crop Diversification.