

Keller's farm would be divided by road

Posted: Monday, May 26, 2014 12:00 am

Dear Editor:

I appreciate your article of April 21 and editorial of April 24 about Maryville's John Keller being named Tennessee Farmer of the Year. For over 50 years, John has been a hard-working, dedicated steward of the land, and he is eminently deserving of this honor. Along with his wife, Susan, and son, Sam, John has built Kelmont Farms into a highly successful business.

Neither your article nor editorial mentioned, however, that if the proposed Pellissippi Parkway Extension is built, it will cut through the heart of Kelmont Farms, seriously impeding, if not destroying, the Keller's business.

Furthermore, the Kellers would be compensated only for the value of the "condemned" land, not for the value of their business, since the Tennessee Department of Transportation does not consider Kelmont Farms to be a business!

Farming is not John Keller's hobby — it's his livelihood! TDOT needs to recognize that, and your article and editorial should have included the whole story.

Sincerely,

John Kerr

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