

Letter: Parkway extension would destroy farm

John Kerr, Rockford

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I appreciate the recent article about Maryville's John Keller being named Tennessee Farmer of the Year.

For more than 50 years, Keller has been a hardworking, dedicated steward of the land, and he is eminently deserving of this honor. Along with his wife, Susan, and son Sam, he has built Kelmont Farms into a highly successful business.

The article never 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 Kellers' 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 should have included the whole story.

