

MCCRACKEN AG NEWS



McCracken County's Agriculture and Natural Resources Update

Cooperative Extension
University of Kentucky
McCracken County
2025 New Holt Rd
Paducah, KY 42001
270-554-9520



Meet the New Agent

Hello everybody! In case you haven't seen my newsletter before, my name is Gracey Moffitt and I am the new Ag agent here in McCracken County. I am very blessed to have been chosen to take on this position and I am so excited to see what all the future holds!

Programming Survey

I am brainstorming different ideas for various programs, classes, and events to make available for all of McCracken County to come and enjoy! I have a survey linked to the QR code below, please scan with the camera on your phone and it will take you to the survey link to fill out. This survey will help me come up with ideas for programming! You can also find the survey under the Agriculture and Natural resources tab on our website - mccracken.ca.uky.edu. If you ever have any questions, feel free to reach out by calling or coming up to the office and I would be more than happy to help!



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Ag & Natural Resources

Events and News for Everyone



**SOLAR ECLIPSE
WATCH
PARTY**

April 8th, 2024

LIMITED ECLIPSE
GLASSES
AVAILABLE

IF INCLEMENT
WEATHER, THE
EVENT IS
CANCELED

11AM - 3PM

ECLIPSE BEGINS 12:42PM
TOTALITY 2:00PM-2:02PM

SCAN FOR MORE
INFORMATION

**MCCRACKEN COUNTY
EXTENSION SERVICE**
2025 NEW HOLT RD
PADUCAH, KY 42001
(270) 554-9520




Cooperative Extension Service


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University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Cooperative, Cooperating.
Lexington, KY 40506


Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development


Disability
accommodated
with prior notification.

Come join us on April 8th here at the McCracken County Extension Office for our Solar Eclipse Party! We will have plenty of food trucks, vendors, yard games, and more!



McCracken County Cooperative Extension

Like and follow us on Facebook for updates about programs and events!

Know someone who would be interested in my newsletter? Have them contact Carla Wilkey at carla.wilkey@uky.edu or call the office at 270-554-9520 to be put on the mailing list!

Want to know more about your soil? We offer soil testing!

Here at the McCracken County Extension Office we take soil samples all year long for nutrient testing. Each sample is just \$7 per bag. Simply collect your samples, bring them to us, we will ship them to UK, and in a few days time the reports come back for us to share with you! If you have any questions regarding soil testing please feel free to call the office.

Livestock Events and News

Timely Tips: Spring Calving Cow Herd

Source: *Dr. Les Anderson, Beef Extension Professor, University of Kentucky*

- Watch cows and calves closely. Work hard to save every calf. Calves can be identified with an ear tag while they are young and easy to handle. Commercial male calves should be castrated and implanted. Registered calves should be weighed at birth.
- Cows that have calved need to be on an adequate nutritional level to rebreed. Increase their feed after calving. Do not let them lose body condition. Keep feeding them until pastures are adequate.
- Do not “rush to grass” although it can be really tempting. Be sure that grass has accumulated enough growth to support the cow’s nutritional needs before depending solely upon it. Cows may walk the pastures looking for green grass instead of eating dry feed. This lush, watery grass is not adequate to support them. Keep them consuming dry feed until sufficient grass is available to sustain body condition. We’ve spent too much money keeping them in good condition to lose it now!
- Prevent grass tetany! Provide magnesium in the mineral mix until daytime temperatures are consistently above 60oF. Mineral supplement should always be available and contain a minimum of about 14% magnesium. Make sure that your mineral mix also contains adequate selenium, copper, and zinc. You can ask your feed dealer about the UK Beef IRM High Magnesium Mineral.
- Make final selection of heifer replacements. Strongly consider vaccinating with a modified-live BVD vaccine.
- Purchase replacement bulls at least 30 days before the breeding season starts. Have herd bulls evaluated for breeding soundness (10-20% of bulls are questionable or unsatisfactory breeders). Get all bulls in proper condition (BCS 6) for breeding.
- If you are going to use artificial insemination and/or estrous synchronization, make plans now and order needed supplies, semen, and schedule a technician.
- Prebreeding or “turnout” working is usually scheduled for late April or May between the end of calving season and before the start of the breeding season (while cows are open). Consult your veterinarian about vaccines and health products your herd needs. Decide now on the products needed and have handling facilities in good working order. Dehorn commercial calves before going to pasture.

Cattle Market Notes Weekly

Josh Maples



James Mitchell



Kenny Burdine



Subscribe to the *Cattle Market Notes Weekly Newsletter* and find other beef related articles by going to the UK Beef Center of Excellence under Current Market Information

[https://bce.ca.uky.edu/economics/current-market-information.](https://bce.ca.uky.edu/economics/current-market-information)

Livestock



CALL 270-247-2334
TO REGISTER!

NEW RETAIL CUTS FROM THE BEEF RIBEYE

MEAT CUTTING DEMONSTRATION
WITH
DR. GREGG RENTFROW,
UK MEAT SCIENCE SPECIALIST

APRIL 30TH
5:30PM

GRAVES COUNTY
EXTENSION OFFICE



Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

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University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.
Lexington, KY 40506



Row Crops & Forages

Events and News

Impact of March 19 Temperatures on Wheat

Source: Dr. Carrie Knott

Across Kentucky almost all of the wheat crop has jointed (Feekes 6) and much of it has developed at least two nodes (Feekes 7). When temperatures dropped into the teens and low 20's (°F) overnight March 19 (Table 1), we once again find ourselves asking the question: Will the low temperatures a couple of nights ago damage this year's wheat crop?

- For wheat fields that are Feekes 5 or less advanced, these temperatures should not harm the wheat. The growing point was still below the soil surface and well protected by the soil temperatures.
- For wheat fields that were at Feekes 6 or later, damage may be possible. The national rule of thumb is that wheat at this growth stage is damaged when temperatures are 24°F or less for 2 or more hours. Although there are certainly more factors that contribute to severity of freeze damage than simply duration of a threshold temperature (many of which we are investigating), this is still the most widely accepted condition to 'trigger' a need to scout fields for damage.

When scouting for freeze damage in wheat, it is important to remember that a minimum of four to five days of good growing conditions (high temperatures exceeding 40°F) are needed before damage becomes visible. In reality, waiting a full week to ten days generally makes it easiest to see freeze damage. Therefore, Tuesday March 26 would be the ideal time to begin scouting fields for freeze damage.

Even if freeze damage is found, this does not immediately indicate that final grain yield will be impacted. Wheat has a tremendous ability to redistribute its resources to living tillers and therefore compensate for primary stems and tillers that may be lost in the freeze. This can result in little to no yield impact. If damage is found, refer to Figure 1 and AGR-253: Identifying Damage and Estimating Yield Reductions following a Spring Freeze in Winter Wheat to help determine potential yield reductions based upon estimated damage observed in the field.

For a visual guide to identify freeze damage refer to AGR-253: Identifying Damage and Estimating Yield Reductions following a Spring Freeze in Winter Wheat.

There are also videos demonstrating how to assess freeze damage at different growth stages: jointing (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=oaPiOU-s-Ro>), flowering (<https://youtu.be/u0DUgEa23bE>) and during grain fill (<https://youtu.be/OhcqjeilE8s>).

Table 1: Minimum air temperatures, relative humidity at minimum air temperature, average relative humidity when air temperature 24°F or less, and duration that air temperatures were 24°F or less and 32°F or less for the available Western KY Mesonet sites overnight March 18 to early morning hours of March 19. Data obtained from KY Mesonet

County	Minimum Air Temperature (°F)	Relative Humidity at Minimum Air Temperature (%)	Average Relative Humidity when Air Temperature ≤24°F (%)	Duration of Temperatures ≤24°F (hours)	Duration of Temperatures ≤32°F (hours)
Ballard	23.7	88	88.5	0.7	11.6
Calloway	22.7	88.1	87.5	2.3	10.8
Fulton	23.1	86.9	86.9	0.4	11
Graves	21.8	91.3	90.5	4.2	12.1
Marshall	20	93.9	94	3.7	10.9

Pesticide Licensing and Trainings: I have finally received my license and have been approved to administer and give pesticide trainings for private applicators. If you are in need of a private applicator's license or need to do your training to recertify, feel free to call the office or email me at gracey.moffitt@uky.edu.

Row Crops & Forages

Organized and Sponsored by the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council, UK Cooperative Extension Service, and the Master Grazer Program

This program is designed for producers and agricultural professionals to learn the newest fencing methods and sound fencing construction through a combination of classroom and hands-on learning

WHEN: April 23-Morehead, KY
April 25-Mayfield, KY

WHERE: Derrickson Agricultural Complex
Richardson Arena
25 MSU Farm Drive
Morehead, KY 40351

Graves County Extension Office
4200 State Route 45 N
Mayfield, KY 42066



COST: \$35/participant -- includes notebook, refreshments, safety glasses, hearing protection, and catered lunch

Registration DEADLINE: 2 weeks prior to workshop

ONLINE Registration with Credit Card:

____ Morehead, KY <https://Spring24FencingMorehead.eventbrite.com>

____ Mayfield, KY <https://Spring24FencingGraves.eventbrite.com>



Registration by U.S. Mail: Caroline Roper
UK Research and Education Center
P.O. Box 469
Princeton, KY 42445

Name: _____

Street: _____

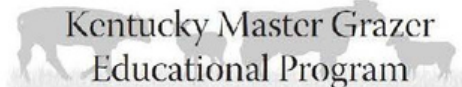
City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Email: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Number of participants _____ x \$35 per participant = _____ **Total Cost**



Make CHECKS payable to: KFGC



2024 Kentucky Fencing Schools

For more information contact Caroline Roper at 270-704-2254 or Caroline.Roper@uky.edu

Upcoming Office Events

	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5
MON	1: 4-H Shooting Sports Info Night 5-7	8: Quilting Club 10 Solar Eclipse Watch Party 11-3	15: 4-H Middle School Book Club 4:30-6 (RSVP)	22: Baked by Caryn for Beginners 1-2:30 (FULL) Baked by Caryn for Beginners 5:30-7 (FULL)	29:
TUE	2: Adult Sewing 9-11 Game Day 9-12 Toolbox Series: Home-steading 5-6	9: Adult Sewing 9-11 District Board Meeting 11 Grounding Yoga 11-12 (Rotary Health Park-RSVP) 4-H Lego Club 4:30-5:30	16: Adult Sewing 9-11 Bags of Love 9:30-1:30 Laugh and Learn 12 (Library) 4-H Lego Club 4:30-5:30 (RSVP)	23: Adult Sewing 9-11 4-H Poultry Club 5:30	30: Adult Sewing 9-11 Purchase Area Communications Day 6:30 (RSVP)
WED	3: McCracken County Beautification Board Meeting 10 Paint Fan Dance 11-12 (RSVP)	10: Tech Class: Computer Basics 10-12	17: Scrapbookin g 9-3 Paint Fan Dance 11-12 (RSVP)	24:	
THURS	4: Needlework Club 10-12 Crochet Alley & Knit Row 1-3	11: Tech Class: Google Docs 10-11 Beading Circle 1-3	18: Game Day 9-12 Needlework Club 10-12 Crochet Alley & Knit Row 1-3	25: Beading Circle 1-3 Gardening 101 5-6	
FRI	5: Forensic Science Day 9-3:30 (RSVP) Dining with Diabetes 10-12 (RSVP)	12: Arts and Crafts: Paint on Canvas 9:30 (RSVP)	19: Spring Craft Yard Sale 9-4 (Saturday 8-1) Dining with Diabetes 10-12 (RSVP)	26:	

Event Calendar for March 2024

If you have questions or would like to RSVP, call the office at 270-554-9520.

The full calendar with event descriptions is located on our website.

Recipe of the Month

Carrot Cake Smoothie

- **1 medium** frozen ripe banana
- **2 medium** carrots, chopped
- **1/2 cup** canned-in-juice pineapple tidbits, drained
- **1/4 cup** low-fat vanilla yogurt
- **1/2 cup** nonfat milk
- **4-5** ice cubes
- **Dash** cinnamon (optional)
- **1/2 teaspoon** vanilla extract (optional)

Wash hands with soap and warm water, **scrubbing** for at least 20 seconds. **Rinse** carrots under cool running water and scrub with a clean vegetable brush to remove any dirt before chopping. **Add** banana, carrot, pineapple, yogurt, milk, ice, and cinnamon and vanilla (if using) to a blender, and **blend** until smooth. If needed, **add** more milk to encourage blending. **Refrigerate** leftovers.

Yield: 2, 1.5 cup servings. **Nutrition Analysis:** 160 calories, 1g total fat, 0g saturated fat, 5mg cholesterol, 90mg sodium, 36g total carbohydrate, 4g fiber, 26g total sugars, 2g added sugars, 5g protein, 6% DV vitamin D, 10% DV calcium, 6% DV iron, 15% DV potassium.



Kentucky Carrots

SEASON: June through early August

NUTRITION FACTS: Carrots are an excellent source of vitamin A, which is important for growth and development, immune function, red blood cell formation, skin and bone formation, and vision.

SELECTION: Choose wellshaped, smooth, firm, crisp carrots with deep color and fresh, green tops. Avoid carrots that are soft, wilted, or split.

STORAGE: Refrigerate carrots in a plastic bag with tops removed for up to 2 weeks.

PREPARATION: Rinse and remove ends, peel if desired. Carrots are eaten raw or cooked. Use raw in salads, with dips, or plain as a snack. To cook whole or cut, steam, boil, microwave, roast, or add to stir-fries, soups, stews, and casseroles.

Kentucky Proud Project

County Extension Agents for Family and Consumer Sciences University of Kentucky, Dietetics and Human Nutrition students

Source: FruitsAndVeggies.org

March 2022

Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers' market, or roadside stand. PlateItUp.ca.uky.edu



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Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.