

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 we haven't met, 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! If you haven't taken it yet, please take my Program Interest Survey! The results from this survey will help me to plan programs. You can find the link on our website.



Gracey Moffitt

Agent Update

This past month I attended numerous trainings, meetings, and conferences. The **4-H Forestry Project Days** ended and my 5 4-H'ers were able to compete in our **County Fair!** Two of the 4-H students projects (as pictured above), will go on to compete in the **KY State Fair.** Our **Horticulture and Fruit and Nut** entries at the county fair were great! Numerous ribbons were awarded to some great looking florals, plants, and produce (as pictured above). My goal for next year is to have more Fruit, Nut, Veggie and Field Crops submitted for cash prizes! I hosted the **Ag Advisory Council Meeting** last month and we had a great attendance! This open meeting was very successful in nailing down the goals and desires of what the community would like to see me do with ag in McCracken County. We will have another meeting this fall. My **Pepper Variety Trial** has been planted (as pictured above)! Stay tuned for updates, programs, and taste test days!

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Ag & Natural Resources Events and News for Everyone

Interested in locally grown, produced, and prepared fruits, veggies, meats, and so much more? Go to the local farmers' market! The Paducah Downtown Farmers' Market is a weekly hit downtown at the flood wall. Numerous local producers and crafters set up every Saturday during the summer months. This is a great way to support and give back to your local community!



You can also visit most local farm stands to buy homegrown fruits and veggies throughout the week. Their stand schedules are usually listed on their individual Facebook pages. Some of our Local producers are listed below!



Garrett Farms
16K likes • 43K followers

Your one stop shop for homegrown, fresh products



Wurth Farms
14K likes • 15K followers

Wurth Farms is a locally owned family business since 1908, providing an array of annuals, perennials, and homegrown produce in the



Bennett's Farm
4.5K likes • 5K followers

2450 NEW HOLT RD, next door to the Signet Credit Union



Huyck Farms
6.6K likes • 7.5K followers

Historic Family Farm & Market Located on Cairo Rd in Paducah, KY. The Old Schmidt Farms! Same



Love Shack Farms
3.4K likes • 3.8K followers

Love Shack Farms is a u-pick blueberry, raspberry, blackberry, peach and apple farm located in Lovelaceville, KY. An easy 20 min. drive from

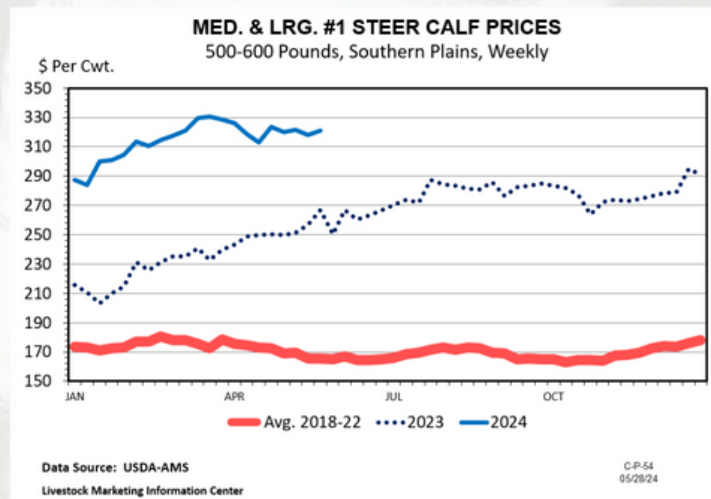
Want your farm featured in the monthly newsletter? Shoot me an email at gracey.moffitt@uky.edu with your farm name, 2-3 pictures that represent your operation, address, contact info, and a little about your farm.

Livestock Events and News

Common Challenges of Cow-calf Share Arrangements

By: Kenny Burdine, University of Kentucky

As an Extension economist that focuses in the area of livestock marketing, I always learn a lot by working through questions I get from stakeholders. A couple times each year a farmer or Extension agent will reach out to me hoping to understand what type of arrangement is typical when multiple individuals partner on a cow herd. The reality is that these arrangements tend to be very complex, and each one is unique. Often, one of the individuals provides the majority of the labor and management, while the other owns the land, cattle and equipment. From there, these arrangements vary greatly as to which party provides what and who is responsible for which expenses. It can be difficult to set share agreements up in a way that is attractive to both parties and this article will briefly talk through some of the reasons why.



First, large profits have historically been pretty elusive in the cow-calf business. I am well aware that I am writing this during a time when calf prices are extremely high and that can be seen in the Southern Plains calf price chart above. But the profit levels being seen during 2024 are much higher than what most would describe as “typical”. As one can imagine, I tend to get more questions about share arrangements when calf prices are high. But, when we discuss applying the proposed arrangement to a lower, long-run average calf price, there is often not enough revenue for both parties to be happy given the individual contributions they are making.

Secondly, producers need to have a good feel for their costs in order to fully think through a share arrangement. The fairest way to set up a cow-share agreement is for each party to share in revenues at roughly the same proportion as their cost contribution. Fleshing this out is simply not possible without a good understanding of those costs. This becomes further complicated by the fact that a lot of those costs tend to be non-cash contributions. For example, one party may be contributing the bulk of the labor / management, and a value needs to be placed on that time. If one of the parties is going to be responsible for cutting, raking, and rolling the hay, values must be placed on non-cash costs like depreciation on equipment, in addition to the operator’s time and the variable costs of producing that hay. Similarly, if one party owns the land being used for pasture and / or hay production, a value should be placed on the use of that ground.

Finally, cow-calf operations are not static; they change over time. Depending on forage availability and market conditions, the size of a cowherd will change from year to year. When heifers are held back for replacement purposes, this effectively lowers revenues for the cow-calf operation in the short run. During times when the cowherd is being expanded, short-term revenue can be greatly impacted. If the cows themselves are owned in partnership, this may not be an issue. But if one party owns the “cowherd”, the arrangement needs to find a fair way to compensate the other party for their share of heifers that are not sold. This can likely be done by placing a value on all calves at weaning, whether they are sold or retained, but a question still remains about the cost of developing those heifers that are retained for breeding purposes.

These are just three of the more common hurdles cow-calf operators tend to encounter as they explore a share arrangement on a cowherd. My goal in walking through those was not to imply that share arrangements are not possible. There are examples of successful arrangements and I think they can be a good way for someone to get started in the cattle business. But due to the complexity of cow-calf operations and the cyclical nature of calf markets, it is imperative that all parties fully think through all aspects of these arrangements before entering into an agreement.

Cattle Market Notes Weekly



Livestock



KENTUCKY DAIRY DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL'S 2024 BEEF ON DAIRY TOUR JULY 10 - 11 | HOPKINSVILLE, KY

Schedule of Events

JULY 10

- 12:00 pm - Meet at Comfort Inn & Suites (*210 Harvey Way Hopkinsville, KY 42240*)
- 1:00 pm - Leave for new calf raising facility (*5701 KY-58 Benton, KY 42025*)
- 2:15 pm - Tour new calf raising facility
- 3:15 pm - Leave for converted chicken house calf raising facility (*837 Meridian Road Hickory, KY 42051*)
- 3:45 pm - Tour converted chicken house calf raising facility/overview of Riley Cattle Operation
- 5:00 pm - Head to Christian Co. Extension Office for dinner (*2850 Pembroke Road Hopkinsville, KY 42240*)

JULY 11

- 8:30 am - Leave for first stop
- 9:00 am - Tour Mark Hoover's Calf to Finish Facility (*5175 Butler Road Elkton, KY 42220*)
- 10:30 am - Leave for Christian Co. Extension Office for Lunch
- 11:00 am to 12:30 pm - Lunch
- 12:30 pm to 2:00pm - Hampton Meets Tour (*1890 Pembroke Road Hopkinsville, KY 42240*)
- 2:00 pm - Leave for Nelson Hoover's Beef Backgrounding Operation (*5254 Old Edwards Mill Road Hopkinsville, KY 42240*)
- 2:30 pm - Tour Beef Backgrounding Operation
- 3:30 pm - End of Tour

*All times are Central

Jennifer Hickerson (859) 516-2458

Dave Roberts (859) 516-1409

Row Crops & Forages Events and News

Corn disease update for June

Source: Dr. Kiersten Wise

Date: 6/18/24

Farmers are annually concerned about corn disease, and this year will be no exception. Corn growth stages in Kentucky vary widely, with some corn likely to tassel this week, while in other parts of Kentucky, corn is still in the bag and yet to be planted. The challenges to the 2024 planting season will make foliar disease monitoring and management decisions more important as we move through the summer. Frequent rainfall across the state has led to some detections of **Anthrachnose Leaf Blight**, and some low levels of **Gray Leaf Spot** in the lower canopy of corn that is close to tasseling. Other diseases observed recently include **Diplodia leaf streak** and **Holcus leaf spot**. To date, no concerning levels of disease have been observed, but it is important to scout frequently, monitor University resources, and be prepared to act if conditions warrant foliar disease management. In most cases, a single foliar fungicide application at tasseling/ silking (VT/R1) will be most effective at preventing yield loss due to foliar diseases, and also provides the greatest chance of seeing a positive return on investment. One of the most important corn diseases to monitor in Kentucky is **Southern Rust**. The fungus that causes southern rust does not overwinter in Kentucky, but spores of the fungus move north on wind currents and weather each summer. We can track the movement of southern rust by watching the map on the cornipmpipe website here: <https://corn.ipmpipe.org/southerncornrust/>. On the map, red counties/parishes indicate that southern rust has been confirmed by university/Extension personnel. To date, southern rust has been confirmed in Louisiana and Georgia. Southern rust typically arrives in Kentucky in mid-July, and whether a fungicide will be needed to manage southern rust at that time will depend on the crop growth stage at the time it is detected in an area. Fungicide applications may be needed to manage southern rust through the milk (R3) growth stage. More information on southern rust can be found here: <https://cropprotectionnetwork.org/publications/an-overview-of-southern-rust> Another disease that can be monitored on the cornipmpipe website is tar spot. **Tar Spot** is a new disease in Kentucky, with only a handful of counties having confirmed disease since 2021. In all cases, tar spot was not observed until mid-September and did not impact yield. This is a disease of concern in states to the north, and we can monitor real-time confirmations at <https://corn.ipmpipe.org/tarspot/>. Tar spot has been detected in a few northern states as of June 10. More information on tar spot can be found here: <https://cropprotectionnetwork.org/publications/an-overview-of-tar-spot> If considering a fungicide application in 2024, remember to scout fields first and check hybrid resistance ratings prior to fungicide application. Hybrids that are moderately resistant or resistant to foliar diseases like gray leaf spot are less likely to demonstrate an economic response to fungicide application. Because of the variation in corn growth stages, and detections of important diseases in other states, farmers may be tempted to alter their planned fungicide application timings. Multiple foliar fungicide application timings are promoted in corn, but research at the University of Kentucky and in other states has shown that a fungicide application at tasseling/silking (VT/R1) is most effective at preventing yield loss due to foliar diseases, and also provides the greatest chance of seeing a positive return on investment. Early foliar fungicide applications that occur at V4-V6 are less likely to provide an economic gain (<https://cropprotectionnetwork.org/publications/impact-of-foliar-fungicide-timing-and-fungicide-class-on-corn-yield-response-in-the-united-states-and-ontario-canada>). Another popular application timing in Kentucky is a pre-tassel application that occurs between V10 and V14. University of Kentucky research has indicated that this application timing can provide comparable disease control and yield response to a VT/R1 application in a year with average disease pressure. Scouting over the next few weeks and just prior to tasseling can help determine if fungicide applications are needed. Although disease levels will continue to build over the course of the season, University research indicates that foliar fungicides applied at tasseling or early silking (VT-R1) provide optimal foliar disease control for diseases like gray leaf spot compared to applications that occur earlier or later in the season. For southern rust, a fungicide application may be needed through milk (R3). Management of tar spot will be on a case-by-case basis at this time. Always check with your County Agent for updates on the diseases present in your specific county and help determining if management is warranted.

Interested in crop pest news updates? Subscribe to the KY Pest News Weekly Newsletter at <https://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/extension/kpn>.

Unsure what is going on in your field? Call me at 270-933-1386. I would be happy to come **5 scout your crops with you to discuss what to do next.**

Row Crops & Forages

Corn, Soybean & Tobacco Field Day

UKREC, Princeton KY 42445

Wagons roll: 8:00am CT

Topics include:

Corn Disease Concerns For 2024

Familiar and New Soybean Diseases to Look Out for in 2024

Insect Update

Corn and Soybean Variety Trials

Weed Control in 2024 And Beyond

“Weather Alert”

Maximizing Corn Yields Following a Cover Crop

Soybean yield and economic response to irrigation

Corn and Soybean Outlook

The Fundamentals of Soil pH Management for Production Agriculture

Changes To Agr-1 Fertilizer Rate Recommendations for Kentucky Grain Crops

UKREC Dark Tobacco Infrastructure and Research Update

Tobacco Research Update from University of Tennessee

Sulfur Fertility in Tobacco

Registration: <http://tiny.cc/m9jlyz> Or scan the QR Code



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Upcoming Office Events

	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5
MON	1: 4-H Poultry Club 5:30	8: District Board Meeting 11 (RSVP) 4-H Poultry Club 5:30	15: 4-H Poultry Club 5:30	22: 4-H Poultry Club 5:30	29: 4-H Poultry Club 5:30
TUE	2: Adult Sewing 9-11 Game Day 9-12 Toolbox Series: Fairy Gardens 5-6 (RSVP)	9: Adult Sewing 9-11 Grounding Yoga 11-12 (RSVP, Rotary Health Park) 4-H Camp Counselor Orientation 5:30	16: Adult Sewing 9-11 Bags of Love 9:30-1:30 Laugh and Learn 11-12 (Library) 4-H Camper Orientation 6 (or 7/20 at 10)	23: Adult Sewing 9-11	30: Adult Sewing 9-11
WED	3: Horticulture Walking Club 11-12 (RSVP, Greenway Trail)	10: Tech Class: Photo Editing 10-12 Horticulture Walking Club 11-12 (RSVP, Greenway Trail) Global Kitchen Experience (Lebanese) 5:30-7 (RSVP)	17: Scrapbooking 9-3 Horticulture Walking Club 11-12 (RSVP, Greenway Trail)	24: Horticulture Walking Club 11-12 (RSVP, Greenway Trail)	31: Global Kitchen Experience (Lebanese) 10:30-12 (RSVP)
THURS	4: 	11: Canning Workshop 9-2 (RSVP)	18: Game Day 9-12 Needlework Club 10-12 Crochet Alley & Knit Row 1-3	25:	
FRI	5:	12: RSVP Summer Health Fair 9-11 Dining Out with Diabetes 1-3 (RSVP)	19:	26:	

Event Calendar for July 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. <https://mccracken.ca.uky.edu>

Recipe of the Month



Very Berry Salsa

4 cups apples, finely diced
1 cup blueberries
1 cup strawberries, diced

1 cup raspberries, halved
1 cup blackberries, halved

1 tablespoon fruit preserves
½ tablespoon sugar
½ tablespoon brown sugar

In a large bowl, **combine** apples and berries. In a small bowl, **mix** together preserves and sugars until well blended. **Pour** preserve mixture over fruit and **toss** to coat. **Cover** and **chill** in the refrigerator for at least 30 minutes.

Yield: 32, 2 ounce servings

Nutritional Analysis: 20 calories, 0 g fat, 0 mg cholesterol, 0 mg sodium, 5 g carbohydrate, 1 g fiber, 4 g sugar, 0 g protein



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

Kentucky Brambleberries

SEASON: June-August

NUTRITION FACTS: All brambleberries are a valuable addition to the diet. They provide fiber and are a good source of potassium and vitamin C. One cup of raw berries contains 70 calories and no fat.

SELECTION: Look for plump fruit, uniform in color and appearing fresh. Berries should be free of stems or leaves. Avoid moldy, crushed or bruised fruit. Do not use berries that have moisture leaks staining the carton.

STORAGE: Store unwashed, covered berries in the refrigerator. Use within two days.

PREPARATION: Handle all berries gently. Raspberries are more delicate and perishable than

other brambleberries. Wash berries by covering them with water and gently lifting the berries out. Remove any stems and drain on a single layer of paper towels.

PRESERVING: Berries may be preserved by canning or freezing or used for making jellies or jam.

KENTUCKY BRAMBLEBERRIES

Kentucky Proud Project

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

June 2013

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Source: www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov