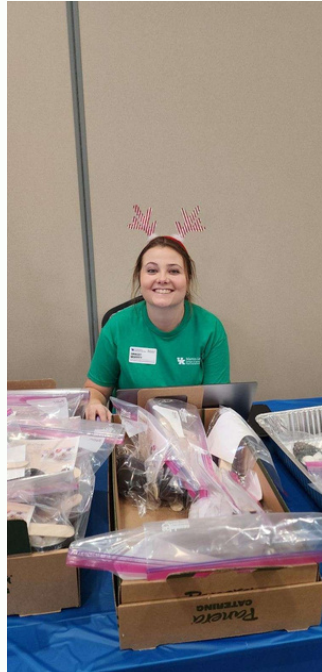


MCCRACKEN AG NEWS



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

Happy New Year everyone! I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year filled with joy, love, and blessings! I can't believe it is already 2025, but I am hoping to start off the year strong!

Last month I had the opportunity to partner with the **MCHS Ag Department** to teach a 3-day class series about **Beef Quality Care and Assurance (BQCA)**. This certification program teaches about proper handling and care of beef cattle. This 3-day class allowed for 55 MCHS students become certified and career ready!

I had the chance to work with the other extension agents in my office to help host our **Morning with Mrs. Claus** event. This event was open to families to bring their children to a free, hands-on activity day here at the extension office including a visit with Mrs. Claus (as pictured above)!

In the beginning of the month I was fortunate to attend the **Annual Kentucky Farm Bureau Conference in Louisville**. This 3-day conference gave me the opportunity to learn more about and network with our Farm Bureau and what all it has to offer the state of Kentucky and McCracken County. I received additional training pertaining to my job as the residing Ag and Natural Resources Extension Agent for the county.

Everyone

Page
2

Livestock

Page
3-4

Row Crops and Forages

Page
5-6

Other Upcoming Events and Recipe

Page
7-8

Ag & Natural Resources Events and News for Everyone

The upcoming events closest to now are listed under the Livestock and Row Crops/Forages event pages.

Future Events:

The Marshall & McCracken Extension Services Present:

WOODLAND CARBON MARKETS

Interested in making income off you woodland property? Curious about voluntary carbon markets for woodlands? Join UK Extension Professor, Jordan Shockley, for a free unbiased informational meeting. Learn what a carbon market is, about the status of carbon markets in the U.S., the opportunities for Kentucky woodland owners, practices required, the value of carbon credits, legal challenges and more!



Guest Speaker
Dr. Jordan Shockley,
UK Extension Economist

MON
March **31**
2025

TWO CHANCES:
MARSHALL COUNTY AT 5:30PM
MCCRACKEN COUNTY AT 10:00AM

Cooperative Extension Service
MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT
Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension are available to people of all ages, races, ethnicities, national origins, creed, religion, political beliefs, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or impairment or conditions that prevent full participation in society. Reasonable accommodations of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English.
University of Kentucky, Kentucky State Developmental Disabilities Program, Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, University of Kentucky, Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, Lexington, KY 40546

MCCRACKEN COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PRESENTS

KING CAKE CLASS

MAKE YOUR OWN KING CAKES

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH
FROM 9:00 AM TO 2:00 PM

TRADITIONAL KING CAKES WITH KELLY & GRACEY

BRING A PARTNER AND MAKE YOUR OWN TRADITIONAL MARDI GRAS KING CAKES FROM SCRATCH FOR A TAKE HOME TREAT! IT'S A HANDS-ON AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCE WHERE YOU CAN IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THE RICH NEW ORLEANS HISTORY. LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

SECURE YOUR SPOT NOW BY CALLING THE MCCRACKEN COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OFFICE AT 270-554-9520. SPOTS ARE LIMITED, SO CALL NOW!

Cooperative Extension Service
MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT
Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension are available to people of all ages, races, ethnicities, national origins, creed, religion, political beliefs, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or impairment or conditions that prevent full participation in society. Reasonable accommodations of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English.
University of Kentucky, Kentucky State Developmental Disabilities Program, Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, University of Kentucky, Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, Lexington, KY 40546

Livestock Events and News

Four Questions the 2025 Cattle Market Will Need to Answer

By: Kenny Burdine, University of Kentucky

Date: 1/6/2025

Trends are always difficult to ascertain coming out of holiday periods as many markets are closed and volumes tend to be pretty light, but cattle prices have started 2025 very strong. While questions exist on the demand side, tight cattle supplies will remain the primary driver in the new year and should continue to support prices. And as always, weather will have a significant impact on feed and forage availability and cattle marketing patterns. As I write the first Cattle Market Notes Weekly article of the year, I wanted to discuss four questions that I think will be important for the 2025 cattle market to answer.

Will we start to see significant heifer retention? – This question has been circulating for the better part of the last two years. There are a lot of reasons why retention has been delayed including weather, production costs and interest rates. But market conditions should be very favorable again and I do think heifer retention could be seen in 2025 if weather cooperates. When heifer retention does pick up, it will further tighten supplies of cattle as those females are held out of the marketing system. This will be the first stage of growing this cowherd, which is currently at a 60+ year low.

Can slaughter weights keep increasing? – Most analysts are forecasting beef production to be lower in 2025. These forecasts are based on continued decreases in cattle numbers and the potential for decreased female harvest in response to high prices. In truth, I could have written this exact same thing last year. But with cattle supplies tight, beef prices high and feed prices relatively low, cattle were fed longer and taken to higher weights. This increase in pounds largely offset the decrease in female slaughter and resulted in steady beef production levels for 2024. I will readily admit that I don't know how much further weights can be pushed, if at all, but those same factors are largely at play again this year. So, I will be watching harvest weight trends very closely.

Will we see greater than expected growth in pork and poultry production? – Holding everything else constant, lower feed prices increase returns across all livestock species and lead to greater production levels. And production levels of competing meats do impact beef and cattle prices. Recent increases in pork production have been driven almost entirely by productivity, rather than increases in breeding inventory, and increases in broiler production have been running around the long run trend rate. I just point this out because production increases can occur much faster in the hog sector than the cattle sector, and faster still in the poultry sector. While there aren't many indications of expansion in other species currently, this was a factor in 2015, and I think it bears watching in 2025. It is important to remember that beef supplies are not the only factor that impacts beef prices. All proteins compete in the meat case.

What will be the impact of any changes in trade policy? – Trade has been a major topic of discussion recently and I doubt that will change in 2025. Beef exports have been lower in recent years due to tight domestic supplies and high prices, but the US still exported the equivalent of roughly 11% of production last year. In the past, retaliatory tariffs have impacted beef and cattle prices, so it bears watching going forward. It is also important to remember that the nature of beef trade very much depends on the trading partner. For example, we export a lot of beef to Mexico and Canada, but we are also a significant import market for those two countries. And while trade discussions typically focus on beef, a significant number of live cattle enter the US from Mexico and Canada each year. Conversely, over half of US beef exports go to Japan, South Korea and China, but those are almost exclusively export markets. The uniqueness of each of these trading relationships makes discussion of trade impacts very complex and something that will be interesting to follow this year.

Cattle Market Notes Weekly

Josh Maples



James Mitchell



Kenny Burdine



Livestock

BEEF MANAGEMENT WEBINAR SERIES

If you are interested and would like to be registered send an email to dbullock@uky.edu with Beef Webinar Series in the Subject and your name and county in the message to receive a Zoom link and password. You will receive an invitation and password the morning of the presentation.

November

12

Shooting the Bull: Answering all your Beef Related Questions!

Updates and Roundtable discussion with UK Specialists

December

10

Winter Feeding Strategies to Extend Short Hay Supplies

Dr. Lawton Stewart, Professor, University of Georgia

January

14

Important Traits for Bull Selection in Kentucky

Dr. Matt Spangler, Professor, University of Nebraska

February

11

Marketing Opportunities for the Spring

Dr. Kenny Burdine, Professor, and Kevin Laurent, Extension Specialist, University of Kentucky

March

11

Preparing for a Successful Spring Breeding Season

Dr. Les Anderson, Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

April

8

Health Update and Internal Parasite Field Study Results

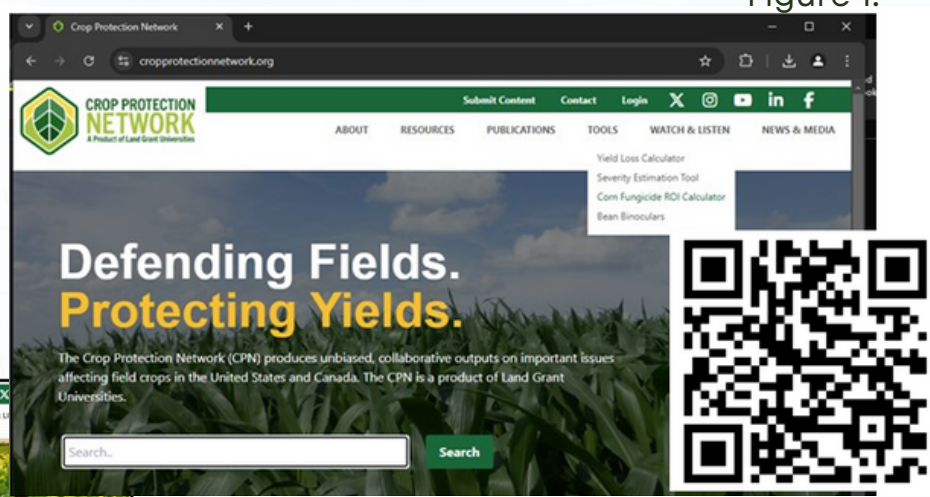
Dr. Michelle Arnold, Extension Veterinarian, and Jeff Lehmkuhler, Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

If you have any questions or need additional information please email dbullock@uky.edu. If you are already registered you will get a Zoom invitation the morning of each session with the link and password.

Row Crops & Forages

Events and News

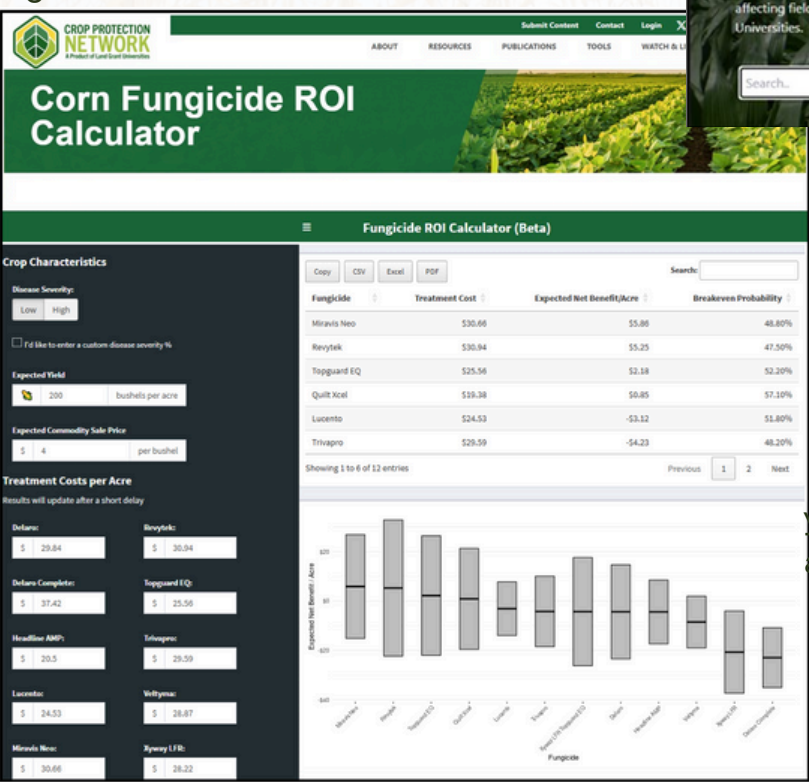
Figure 1.



A New Tool to Help with Corn Fungicide Decisions in 2025

Source: Dr. Kiersten Wise,
UK Extension Plant Pathologist
Date: 12/13/2024

Figure 2.



Farmers and other stakeholders have a new resource to help them make fungicide input decisions in corn. The interactive Corn Fungicide ROI Calculator is available through the Crop Protection Network website, <https://cropprotectionnetwork.org/fungicide-roi-calculator>. This calculator uses multiple years of University corn fungicide datasets from across 19 U.S. states and Ontario Canada to help predict the probability of a positive return on investment (ROI) for a range of fungicide products and economic scenarios in corn.

The tool, built in collaboration with the Crop Protection Network and the University of Wisconsin Madison Data Science Institute, has over 1,100 data points and multiple Kentucky trials incorporated into the data set used for analysis. Southern rust and tar spot were prominent diseases in many of the trials included in the data set, which also increases the relevancy to Kentucky farmers, as these are diseases that can be economically important in Kentucky. The tool can be customized to reflect the user's expected yield, contracted or expected corn pricing, and actual fungicide costs from retailers or industry representatives. These customized numbers are used to calculate real estimates of ROI and the breakeven probability of specific products and expected yields, based on robust fungicide data sets. Results are based on a single fungicide application that occurs at tasseling/silking (VT/R1). The calculator will be updated annually with additional University data sets, improving its prediction accuracy and relevance over a broad geography. For questions on the calculator, contact Kiersten Wise, Extension Plant Pathologist at Kiersten.wise@uky.edu. Figure 2. Example ROI calculated for an expected yield of 200 bushels per acre and an expected commodity sale price of \$4/bushel at a range of default fungicide prices.

Row Crops & Forages

2025 WINTER AG CONFERENCE

JANUARY 31ST @ LOWRY FARMS
5183 ST. RT. 94 W, WATER VALLEY, KY 42085

REGISTRATION OPENS - 7AM
SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:
MAXIMIZING CANOLA YIELD: BEST PRACTICES FOR GROWTH AND MANAGEMENT
CANOLA DISEASE UPDATE
BUNGE CHEVRON AG RENEWABLES-MARKETING WINTER CANOLA

Sponsored Lunch and Product Vendors on Site
KY & TN Pesticide and CCA CEU's are pending

TO REGISTER, CALL YOUR LOCAL COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE*




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

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, ancestry, citizenship, or physical or mental disability. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Charities, Cooperating.

1001020, KY 40540

Disability accommodations with prior notification



2025 Pesticide Private Applicator Trainings



Who needs this certification?
Anyone who sprays "restricted use" pesticides privately (not for a compensation), Those who spray for compensation need a commercial applicators license from the KDA. These certifications are valid for 3 years and expire Dec. 31st of the final year.

Call to register!
Phone Number
270-554-9520

There are three chances:

Wednesday, January 22nd 9:00 AM

Tuesday, February 11th 9:00 AM

Thursday, February 27th 5:00 PM

**McCracken County
Cooperative Extension
Office**

**2025 New Holt Rd,
Paducah, KY 42001**

Cannot attend any of these dates? Contact the Extension Office to schedule a one-on-one training.

2025 WINTER WHEAT MEETING

February 4, 2025

Bruce Convention Center
Hopkinsville, KY 42240

9am-3pm central

Registration 8:30 ct

CCA and Pesticide Credits pending.

- What are We Learning From YEN in KY? - Phil Needham**
- Herbicide Residual Application Timing for Ryegrass Control - Dr. Travis Legleiter**
- On-farm Grain Fumigation Options - Josh Wilhelm**
- Dealing with DON: Management of Fusarium Head Blight and DON in Wheat - Dr. Carl Bradley**
- How Nitrogen and Sulfur Fertility Influences Wheat Grain Yield and Protein Content - Dr. Edwin Ritchey**
- Current Wheat Crop Update - Dr. Chad Lee**
- Wheat Varieties Tolerance to Metribuzin and Opportunities to Improve Italian Ryegrass Management - Dr. Samuel Revolinski**
- Overview of Kentucky Wheat Yield Contest 2015-2024 - Dr. Mohammad Shamim**



Cooperative Extension Service

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, ancestry, citizenship, or physical or mental disability. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Charities, Cooperating.

1001020, KY 40540

Disability accommodations with prior notification

**Interested in taking soil samples before this growing season begins?
Contact me via email at gracey.moffitt@uky.edu or by calling the office at 270-554-9520 and we can get you hooked up.**

Upcoming Office Events

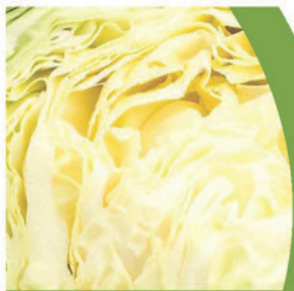
	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5
MON		6: 4-H Culinary Club 5-6:30 (RSVP)	13: District Board Meeting 11-12 (RSVP)	20: 	27: Create Valentine Cards 1-3 or 6-8 (RSVP, \$10) 4-H Viral Voyagers Video Game Club 4:30-5:30 (RSVP) 4-H Baking Club 5-7 (RSVP)
TUE		7: Adult Sewing 9-11 Game Day 9-12 Winter Sowing 5-6	14: Adult Sewing 9-11 4-H Lego Club 4:30-5:30 (RSVP)	21: Bags of Love 9:30-1:30 Laugh and Learn 11-12 (at Library) Interracial Women's Group 12-1 (\$5 fee)	28: Adult Sewing 9-11 4-H Lego Club 4:30-5:30 (RSVP)
WED	1: 	8: Tech Class: Organizing Your Inbox 10-11 (RSVP) Air Sculpt Yoga 1-3 (RSVP)	15: Chair Yoga 10-11 (\$3 at the door) Scrapbooking 9-3	22: Chair Yoga 10-11 (\$3 at the door) Private Applicator Training 9 (RSVP) Art Engines Stomp Chi 1-3 (RSVP)	29: Chair Yoga 10-11 (\$3 at the door)
THURS	2: Needlework Circle 10-12 Crochet Alley & Knit Row 1-3 4-H Chess Club 5-7	9:	16: Game Day 9-12 Needlework Circle 10-12 Crochet Alley & Knit Row 1-3 4-H Chess Club 5-7	23:	30:
FRI	3:	10: Arts & Crafts Day: Basket Weaving 9:30-1:30 (RSVP, \$25 fee)	17: Winter Wonderland Health Fair 9-11	24: Honor My Decisions 10-12	31: Winter Ag Conference: Canola 7:30 (Lowry Farms) Gadgets, Gizmos, and Widgets 1-4 (RSVP, \$25)

Event Calendar for January 2025

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



Cabbage Jambalaya

1 pound lean ground beef	1 (13 ounces) package turkey smoked sausage, sliced	1 (14.5 ounces) can diced tomatoes
1 ½ cups chopped celery		2 cups water
1 ½ cups chopped onion	1 medium head cabbage, chopped (about 10 cups)	1 cup brown rice
2 cloves garlic, minced		1 teaspoon garlic powder
		1 tablespoon Cajun seasoning

Heat a large stockpot over medium high. **Add** ground beef, and **cook** until it starts to brown, about 6 minutes. **Add** the celery, and **cook** for 2 minutes. **Add** onion and garlic, and **cook** 4 minutes while stirring. **Add** smoked sausage, and **cook** an additional 2 to 3 minutes. **Stir in** cabbage, and **cook** until it wilts, about 3 minutes. **Add** tomatoes, water, rice, garlic powder, and Cajun seasoning.

Bring to a **boil**, and **reduce** heat to medium. **Cover**, and **simmer** for 40 minutes. Serve hot.

Yield: 10, 1-cup servings

Nutritional Analysis:
250 calories, 8 g fat, 3 g saturated fat, 60 mg cholesterol, 400 mg sodium, 26 g carbohydrate, 4 g fiber, 6 g sugars, 0 g added sugars, 18 g protein

Kentucky Cabbage

SEASON: June to July and September to November

NUTRITION FACTS: Cabbage is low in fat and calories and is rich in vitamin A.

SELECTION: Leaves should be crisp and free of insects and decay. Avoid burst heads. Choose firm cabbages that are heavy for their size.

STORAGE: Cover loosely and store in refrigerator for up to 2 weeks. Wash just before using.

PREPARATION: Discard outer leaves and core.

To boil: Do not use aluminum pan. Cut cabbage into quarters and boil in water for 10 to 15 minutes, until tender. Drain and serve hot.

To steam: Place cabbage (shredded, wedges, or whole leaves) into a steamer basket. Cook 12 to 15 minutes, until tender. To bring out the natural flavor, add apples, pears, raisins, curry, caraway, dill, or onions.

To stir-fry: Shred cabbage, and place in a skillet that has been sprayed with cooking spray or oil. Cook quickly over high heat, stirring constantly.

CABBAGE

Kentucky Proud Project
County Extension Agents for Family and Consumer Sciences

University of Kentucky, Dietetics and Human Nutrition students

November 2019

Source: www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov

Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers market, or roadside stand. <http://plateitup.ca.uky.edu>



Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability. For more information, contact your county's Extension agent for Family and Consumer Sciences or visit www.uky.edu/fcs



University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service