

# 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 May everyone! I hope y'all we're able to stay afloat and safe during the flooding and storms that came across our area. Fingers crossed we can leave the torrential rains and storm season behind us as we move into May.

April seemed to fly by, but all in all it was a good month. I taught a session on Ag Careers during the 4-H Exploring Careers week. We learned about different careers in agriculture and did some hands-on activities.

In working with Heather Hunter, one of our 4-H agents, I had the opportunity to teach in 2 different schools. We did an egg incubator program at Clark Elementary School for the Kindergarteners in their science class. I got to teach about egg development and parts just in time for the eggs to hatch. I also went with her to Reidland Intermediate's after school club to teach about soil science and we did an "edible soil" activity (as pictured above).

To wrap up the month, I coordinated a ceremony for the McCracken County Farm Bureau to donate grain entrapment rescue equipment to our local fire department (as pictured above). I was honored to speak on behalf of both groups, and we are excited to work together later this year by hosting an Ag Safety Day.

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# Ag & Natural Resources Events and News for Everyone

 Cooperative Extension Service

## Webinar Event Living with Alpha-gal Syndrome

Learn more about AGS (red meat allergy) and how to reduce your risk with University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension

### Topics Covered

- ✓ AGS basics
- ✓ Tick bite prevention
- ✓ Diet & lifestyle management
- ✓ Q/A session

McCracken County Extension Office  
2025 New Holt Rd  
Paducah, KY | 42001 | (270) 554-9520

Please call to register, we want to make sure to have enough materials for everyone.



 Martin-Gatton  
College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment  
University of Kentucky

 KENTUCKY  
DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE

## Agricultural Pesticide Dump Day

Dumping the right way with UK and KDA, just in time for the county dump day! Come out to the McCracken County Extension Office to dispose of old, unused, or unwanted agricultural pesticides.



### What is acceptable:

- ✓ Unwanted agricultural pesticides only (does not include such items as motor oils, cleaners, paint, antifreeze or industrial chemicals)
- ✓ Unused/unmixed chemical
- ✓ Old Chemical

For more information:  
270-554-9520  
[gracey.moffitt@uky.edu](mailto:gracey.moffitt@uky.edu)

When: Thursday, May 1st at 12:00-3:00

Where: McCracken County Cooperative Extension Office Parking Lot

2025 New Holt Rd, Paducah, KY 42001





## MASTER GARDENER PLANT SALE

You know you need lots more plants!

### May 31st, 2025 9am - 12pm

Great prices! All profits will help support the McCracken County Extension Master Gardeners

McCracken County Extension Service  
2025 New Holt Rd  
Paducah, Ky 42001  
(270) 554-9520

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

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Programs and services may be available with prior notice. Programs and services may be made available in languages other than English.  
Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.




Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

Have you seen my new Facebook page? I know have an official McCracken County ANR Facebook page! This page will be an extension of my newsletter by being able to share what I am doing during the week, upcoming events, news, and more! You can find it at **McCracken County Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources.**

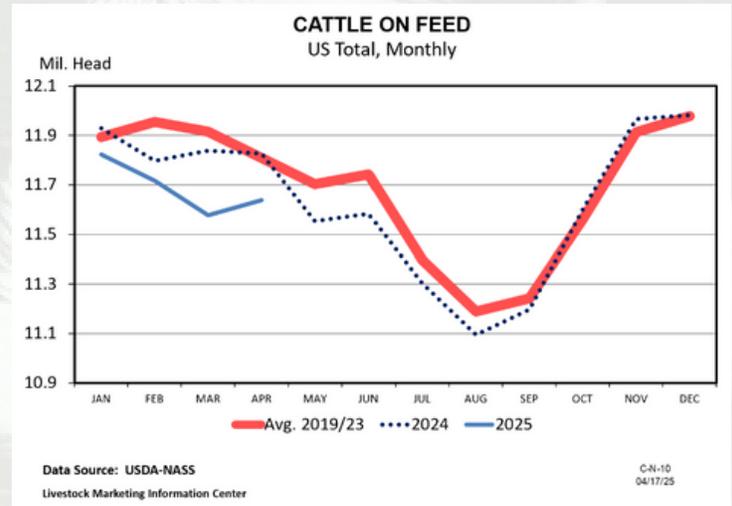
# Livestock Events and News

## April Cattle on Feed Points to Higher Placements, but fewer Heifers

By: Kenny Burdine, University of Kentucky

Date: 4/21/2025

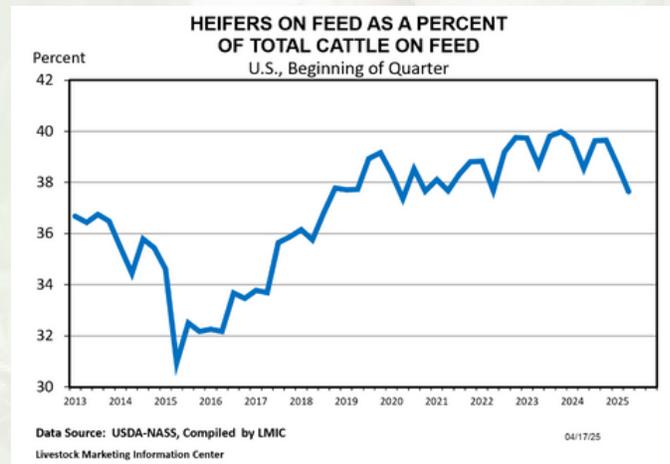
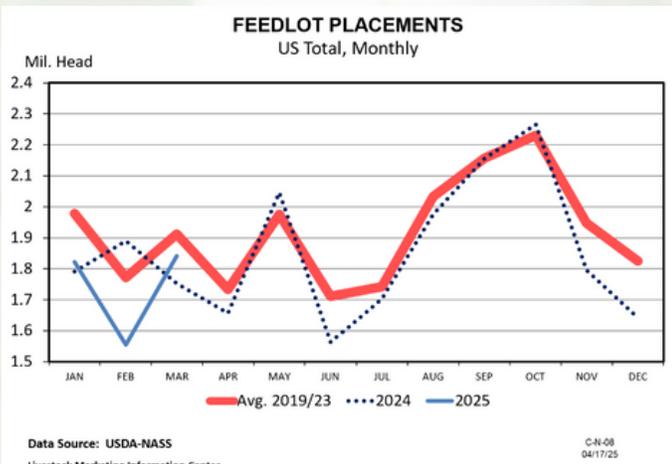
USDA released the April Cattle on Feed report on Thursday April 17<sup>th</sup>. The Thursday release was due to the 18<sup>th</sup> being Good Friday. Monthly Cattle on Feed reports estimate inventories for feedlots with capacity over 1,000 head, which represents over 80% of total on-feed inventory in the US. As of April 1, total on-feed inventory was estimated at 11.6 million head, which was 1.6% lower than last April. Feedlot inventories have been running below year ago levels since November 2024 and are likely to stay that way for a while as calf crops have been getting smaller.



March marketings were 1% higher than 2024, which was very close to pre-report estimates. The number that garnered the most attention was March placements, which came in 5% higher than last year. While most analysts expected placements to be higher, this was near the upper end of the range of estimates. February placements were very low, partially due to less-than-ideal weather conditions. This may have led to some pushing of feeder cattle movement into March. High price levels also may have also pulled cattle forward, also leading to higher March placements. I tend not to read a lot into any single month and placements for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2025 were down by about 4% from the same three months of 2024.

Friday's report was also a quarterly cattle on feed report, which included an estimate of the steer / heifer breakdown. With high calf prices and expansion questions looming, this breakdown has been of keen interest for some time. In last week's report, steers on feed were essentially unchanged from last year, while heifers on feed were down 4%. As a percentage of total on-feed inventory, heifers accounted for 37.6%. This is not a number that suggests widespread heifer retention, but it is worth noting that this is about a percent lower than both April of 2024 and January of 2025.

As we move through spring and into summer, I will be watching pasture conditions very closely. Calf prices are very strong, but no level of profitability can make it rain. Weather will be the primary determinant of whether heifer retention increases during 2025. Beef cow slaughter also bears watching as it has been running well below last year's levels. And beef cow slaughter was very low in 2024. From my perspective, it appears that liquidation of the cowherd has really slowed down (mostly through reduced cow slaughter). But heifer retention does not appear to be significant enough to suggest we are close to seeing expansion yet. At present, I am expecting beef cow numbers to decrease slightly, or stay about the same, during 2025.



# Livestock

LIGHTS, CAMERA,  
SHOWTIME

WESTERN RIVERS  
JR LIVESTOCK EXPO

JUNE 13-14,  
2025

**Costume  
Contest**

JUDGING, SKILL-A-THON,  
MEATS JUDGING, & MORE!

More info  
here!

WILLIAM "BILL" CHERRY EXPO  
CENTER  
MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY  
2101 COLLEGE FARM RD.  
MURRAY, KY 42071

# Row Crops & Forages

## Events and News

### Flooding and Freezing Effects on Wheat and Corn

Source: Chad Lee, UK Extension Grain Crops Specialist

Date: 4/11/2025



Figure 1. Standing water in a wheat field in Central Kentucky

Articles in this newsletter address the rainfall totals received since the first of April and the expected nitrogen losses from those conditions. There are other concerns about how the wheat crop will recover from the excessive rains. The following are some expectations and assumptions. Be cautious with these. Scouting fields around 7 to 14 days after the heavy rains (or after water recedes) will provide much better answers than the assumptions that follow.

#### Wheat

Wheat fully underwater for several days most likely will not survive. In corn and soybeans, we expect 24 hours of submersion at air temperatures above 70 F to cause plant death. The weather was much cooler for wheat during this flooding and we do not have the same estimates on plant survival. Scouting 7 to 14 days after the water recedes will better identify if wheat will survive.

Wheat covered in mud from receding flood waters will have a poor chance of survival. Another rain event that washes the mud off the plants could help, but it is not likely.

Wheat on saturated soil but not submerged will be the hardest to scout. Again, waiting 7 to 14 days will help. The following is an expected order of events. Expected not predicted. Saturated soils are those where water has pushed all air out of the soil. The plant roots need oxygen in the root zone to survive. The lack of oxygen in the root zone will kill the root hairs quickly, preventing the plant from taking up nutrients. Once oxygen re-enters to the root zone, another three days or so are needed for new root hairs to grow and start taking up nutrients. Meanwhile, the shoots are still conducting photosynthesis and the plants are attempting to grow. It is very common to see a corn or soybean field flash yellow after being saturated for a while. We should expect wheat fields to do the same after several days of good growing conditions. That yellow flash has more to do with dead root hairs than a lack of nitrogen in the root zone.

Most of the wheat across the state is in the jointing stages. During these stages, the plants are developing the heads that will eventually produce seeds. Nutrition disruptions during these stages could reduce head size which could lead to reduced yields. A newsletter article from Minnesota summarizing research papers suggests that wheat in saturated conditions for more than 10 days could result in yield losses of 20 to 50% (Wiersma 2024).

On top of the flooding, most of Kentucky experienced freezing temperatures one or two nights. Those freezing temperatures likely were not cold enough to result in damage to the wheat at the current growth stages. The colder weather bracketing the freezing temperatures may have helped the wheat survive the flooding a little longer.

#### Corn

For corn planted just before the flooding, those seeds most likely are germinating. Four days of saturated soils likely will kill germinating corn seeds (Brehl et al. 2024). Soils saturated for one to six days could result in 6 to 61% yield loss. Expect corn emergence to be slowed, which could cause more uneven stands. Corn needs about 115 Growing Degree Days (GDD's or Heat Units) to emerge. If air temperatures are less than 50 F, then no GDD's are accumulating. If each day's temperatures averaged 35 and 55 F for low and high air temperatures, respectively, then corn would take 20 days to emerge.

Scouting corn emergence 10 to 14 days after these flooding and saturation events will provide much better clarity on corn stands.

# Row Crops & Forages

## 2025 WHEAT FIELD DAY

Wheat Science Group



Grain and Forage  
Center of Excellence

MAY 13, 2025



### TOPICS INCLUDE:

#### CURRENT WHEAT CROP UPDATE

Dr. Chad Lee & Dr. Mohammad Shamim

#### SULFUR FOR WHEAT: PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

Dr. Edwin Ritchey

#### OPTIMAL N FOR 2025 - Dr. John Grove

#### 2025/26 WHEAT OUTLOOK - Dr. Grant Gardner

#### RESIDUAL HERBICIDES FOR MANAGEMENT OF FALL AND SPRING EMERGING ITALIAN RYEGRASS

Dr. Travis Legleiter

#### MANAGEMENT OF IMPORTANT WHEAT DISEASES

Dr. Heather Kelly (University of Tennessee)

#### UPDATES ON OCCURRENCES OF APHIDS, HESSIAN FLIES, AND FALL ARMYWORMS IN 2024-25

Dr. Raul Villanueva

#### BREEDING FOR SCAB RESISTANCE IN SOFT RED WINTER WHEAT

Dr. Dave Van Sanford & Maggie Gillum

#### VARIETY TRIAL WALK THROUGH

UKREC Farm  
1205 Hopkinsville St.,  
Princeton KY 42445

9:00am - 12:00pm CT  
Registration 8:30 am

LUNCH SPONSORED BY



### EDUCATIONAL CREDITS:

CCA Credits:

IPM: 1 HR

Crop Mgmt: 1.5 HR

PESTICIDE CREDITS:

1 CEU for Cat 1a

1 CEU for Cat 10



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



Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.

## FREE SOIL SAMPLES FOR MCCRACKEN COUNTY RESIDENTS

Did you know that as a McCracken County resident that you can get up to 7 soil samples sent to the lab for FREE each year? We offer multiple soil sampling packages for yards, pasture, row crops, gardens, wildlife plots, etc. If you're interested in more information, come to the office or call 270-

554-9520

# Upcoming Office Events

	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5
MON		<b>5:</b>	<b>12:</b> District Board Meeting 11-12 (RSVP)	<b>19:</b>	<b>26:</b>
TUE		<b>6:</b> Adult Sewing 9-11 Game Day 9-12 Container Gardening 5-6 (FULL)	<b>13:</b> Adult Sewing 9-11	<b>20:</b> Bags of Love 9:30-1:30 Laugh and Learn 11-12 (Library)	<b>27:</b> Adult Sewing 9-11
WED		<b>7:</b> McCracken County Civic Beautification Board Meeting 10-11 Chair Yoga 10-11 (\$3)	<b>14:</b> Chair Yoga 10-11 (\$3) Tech Class: Smartphones 10-11	<b>21:</b> Scrapbooking 9-3 Chair Yoga 10-11 (\$3)	<b>28:</b> Chair Yoga 10-11 (\$3)
THURS	<b>1:</b> Needlework Circle 10-12 Horticulture Walking Club 11-12 Crochet Alley & Knit Row 1-3	<b>8:</b> Horticulture Walking Club 11-12	<b>15:</b> Game Day 9-12 Needlework Circle 10-12 Horticulture Walking Club 11-12 Crochet Alley & Knit Row 1-3 4-H Expressive Art Club 4-5 (ages 9-12, RSVP)	<b>22:</b> Horticulture Walking Club 11-12	<b>29:</b> Horticulture Walking Club 11-12 Living with Alpha-gal Syndrome Webinar Watch Party 6-7:30
FRI	<b>2:</b> FCS Lesson: Healthy Eating Around the World 10 (RSVP)	<b>9:</b> Arts & Crafts Day: Teacup Garden with Succulents 9:30-12 (RSVP, \$10)	<b>16:</b>	<b>23:</b>	<b>30:</b>

## Event Calendar for May 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



## Asian Asparagus Salad

**1 pound** fresh asparagus

**1½ tablespoons** low sodium soy sauce

**2 teaspoons** sugar or artificial sweetener

**1 tablespoon** olive oil

**2 teaspoons** sesame seeds

- 1. Snap** off and discard the root ends of the asparagus.
- 2. Wash** remaining stalks thoroughly.
- 3. Slice** stalks into 1½ inch lengths on the diagonal.
- 4. Blanch** asparagus for 1-3 minutes in boiling water, until bright green in color.
- 5. Cool** immediately under cold water and drain.
- 6. Combine** soy sauce, sugar, olive oil, and sesame seeds in a small glass bowl. **Mix** dressing until sugar is dissolved.
- 7. In** a gallon zip-seal bag, add asparagus and dressing. **Turn** bag to coat asparagus with dressing and chill in the refrigerator for 15 minutes. **Turn** bag again and chill for an additional 15 minutes before serving.

**Yield:** 4, ½ cup servings.

**Nutrition Analysis:** 70 calories, 4.5 g fat, .5 g sat. fat, 0 mg cholesterol, 250 mg sodium, 7 g carbohydrate, 2 g fiber, 3 g protein.

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



## Kentucky Asparagus

**SEASON:** April through May.

**NUTRITION FACTS:** Asparagus is a good source of vitamin A and folate. One-half cup of fresh, steamed asparagus has 22 calories, 2 grams of protein, and 4 grams of carbohydrate.

**SELECTION:** Choose bright green stalks with tightly closed tips. The most tender stalks are apple green in color with purple-tinged tips.

**STORAGE:** Fresh asparagus will keep 1-2 weeks in the refrigerator. Refrigerate upright with cut ends in water or with cut ends wrapped in wet paper towels in a plastic bag.

**Source:** [www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov](http://www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov)

**PREPARATION:** One pound of asparagus will yield 4 one-half cup servings, about 6 spears per serving. Wash asparagus thoroughly in cool, running water. Eat asparagus raw or lightly boil, steam, stir-fry, or grill. Overcooked asparagus will be mushy. Try seasoning it with herbs, butter, or Parmesan cheese.

### ASPARAGUS

#### Kentucky Proud Project

County Extension Agents for Family and Consumer Sciences  
University of Kentucky, Nutrition  
and Food Science students

#### March 2011

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