

THE FARMACY

APRIL NEWS

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College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

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Agent Remarks

I hope you all are staying safe this is April after all the extreme weather we have been seeing this first week. I know that this untimely rainfall will set back planting dates, grass growth, and has caused headaches for a large portion of the Bluegrass Region. I have included some pertinent information on flood safety, disaster record keeping, and recovery efforts that are being made on page 8. Reach out if you have any questions or if your interested in assisting with any of the recovery efforts being made.

I am sure that you all have also seen allot of news about the new tariffs and what they mean for the agriculture sector. There are 2 articles attach that shed some light on what implications these tariffs will have for the industry and what producers can do to make the most of it. You can find those articles on pages 2 and 3.

Lastly take a look at the Beef Pasture Workshop Field Day flyer on page 10. It will focus on all things pasture management but will have some highlighted information on NovaGraz and DuraCor. RSVP to attend by calling the Office!

Be safe and have a great April!
Brittany



In This Issue

Agent Remarks.....	1
Crops.....	2
Ag Economics and Policy.....	3
Forage News.....	4
April Recipe.....	5
Conservation Corner.....	5
Livestock.....	6
Wildlife.....	7
Flood Resources.....	8
Events.....	9-10



**Cooperative
Extension Service**

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

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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



Tariffs and Trade: The Cost of U.S. Agriculture

-Grant Gardener

Tariffs are a government tool used to raise the price of foreign products, encouraging consumers to buy domestically produced goods. They serve multiple purposes, including protecting local industries from foreign competition, generating government revenue, and responding to unfair trade practices. This article examines the US export portfolio for corn, soybeans, and wheat, highlighting key countries where retaliatory tariffs could lead to price volatility and losses in agricultural commodities.

Click [HERE](#) to read more!

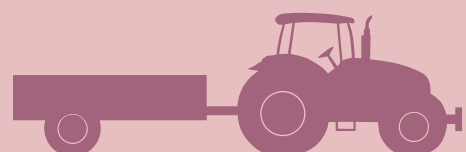


Corn Yield Contest Analysis: What Has Driven Yield in Last 6 Years?

-Mohammad Shamim and Chad Lee

We carefully examined management strategies alongside meteorological data, including rainfall, temperature, and solar radiation. With yield contest data, we cannot compare a single change in one practice and how it affects yield. However, we can run a more complex or holistic approach where we analyze how both management practices and weather conditions influence yield. With this approach, we were able to analyze all production practices provided by the farmers on each entry form.

Click [HERE](#) to read more!



Ag Economics and Policy

Stocker Outlook for 2025

-Greg Halich and Kenny Burdine

The purpose of this article is to assess the likely profitability of summer stocker programs for 2025 and establish target purchase prices for calves based on a range of return levels. While it is impossible to predict where feeder cattle markets will end up this fall, producers need to estimate this and not rely on the current price (March) for 750-850 lb feeder calves. Fall CME® feeder cattle futures prices (adjusted for basis) provide the best estimate of feeder cattle prices for fall. Grazing costs including pasture costs, veterinary and health expenses, hauling, commission, etc. are estimated and subtracted from the expected value of the fall feeders. Once this has been done, a better assessment can be made of what can be paid for stocker cattle this spring in order to build in an acceptable return to management, capital, and risk.

Click [HERE](#) to read more!



Understanding the New Tariffs

-Betty Resnick, American Farm Bureau

Trade has become a hot topic this year, with a lot of uncertainty. Trade policy decisions being made in Washington will impact farmers and ranchers in the countryside. This Market Intel report is part of a series exploring different topics related to agricultural trade, including the potential impacts of trade policy changes: [Agricultural Exports 101](#)

Click [HERE](#) to read more!

Forage News

The Pros and Cons of Tall Fescue

-Debra Powell

If you look out over your pasture and see bunch grass with coarse-textured, flat, and ribbed-surface leaf blades, you are probably looking at tall fescue.

Tall fescue, a productive, well-adapted, and persistent cool-season grass is one of the most abundant and heavily utilized forages in the United States. This grass occupies more than 10% of the U.S. land area—approximately 37 million acres—with an estimated 700,000 horses grazing or fed tall fescue.

Click [HERE](#) to read more!



Reclaiming Flood-Damaged Pastures and Forage Production

-Darren Redfearn, Nebraska Extension

The first step when reentering an area where flooding has occurred is the removal of debris and repair of damaged infrastructure such as fences and water sources. Flood waters may have carried and silted in objects that could injure livestock and damage equipment operating in the field.

Click [HERE](#) to read more!



Forage Timely Tips

- Sign up for an April KY Grazing or Fencing School.
- Graze winter annuals that were seeded last fall.
- Graze cover crops using temporary fencing.
- As pasture growth begins, rotate through pastures quickly to keep up with the fast growth of spring.
- Creep-graze calves and lambs, allowing them access to highest quality pasture.
- Finish re-seeding winter feeding sites where soil disturbance and sod damage occurred.
- As pasture growth exceeds the needs of the livestock, remove some fields from the rotation and allow growth to accumulate for hay or haylage
- Determine need for supplemental warm season forages such as pearl millet or sudangrass. Wait till May to plant though.
- Flash graze pastures newly seeded with clovers to manage competition.



Farmer's Market Skillet Bake

½ small onion, finely chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced
4-5 small red potatoes, sliced
1 tablespoon olive oil

2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese, divided
1 medium summer squash, sliced
1 medium zucchini, sliced

4 medium sized tomatoes, sliced
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon pepper
5 fresh basil leaves, finely chopped, divided

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. **Prepare** onion, garlic and sliced potatoes (about ¼ inch thick). **Heat** olive oil over medium heat in a 10 or 12-inch oven safe skillet. **Add** onion, garlic, and potatoes to pan and **stir** to coat with oil. **Cook** over medium heat, **stirring** occasionally until golden brown and tender. **Add** 1 cup mozzarella cheese. In a bowl, **toss** together the squash, zucchini and tomatoes with salt, pepper, and half of the finely chopped basil. **Layer** squash

and tomato slices over the potato and cheese layer. **Top** with remaining mozzarella cheese. **Bake** 35 minutes or until vegetables are tender and cheese is melted. **Remove** skillet from oven and **top** with remaining basil.

Yield: 8, 1 cup servings

Nutritional Analysis: 200 calories, 8 g fat, 4 g saturated fat, 20 mg cholesterol, 490 mg sodium, 24 g carbohydrate, 3 g fiber, 5 g sugars, 10 g protein.

Conservation Corner

Here are some ways the Scott County Conservation District can help you!

Backyard Conservation

Programs Include:

- Plant a Tree – 50% cost-share up to \$100
- Pollinator Plot – 50% cost-share up to \$100
- Rain Barrel Kit – 50% cost-share up to \$25.00
- Garden Cover Crop – Free bags of wheat seed

Scott County Conservation District
100 E Penn Ave (M-F 9:00 – 2:00pm),
502-863-2466, scottcountycd@yahoo.com

Local Cost Share

Programs Include:

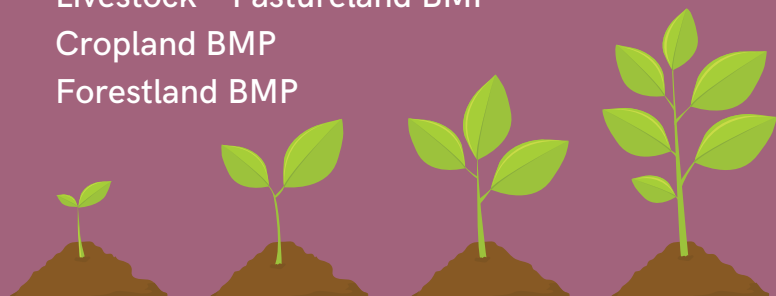
- Gateway, Barn Entrance & Heavy Traffic Corridor Erosion Control Program
- Pipeline and Waterer
- Cover Crop
- Pasture Renovation

State Cost Share

Applications accepted for 2026 funding until October 30, 2025

4 Areas of Interest:

- Livestock – Animal Feeding Operations (AFO)
- Livestock – Pastureland BMP
- Cropland BMP
- Forestland BMP



Livestock

Grass Tetany: A Disease of Many Challenges

-Robert J. Van Saun

Lush spring pasture growth is upon us, with April rains and warming temperatures bringing a new grazing season. Unfortunately, our beef cattle, sheep, and goats may not always adapt to this lush pasture growth in the cool, wet spring season. Cool-season grasses growing under these conditions are known to be low in an essential mineral, magnesium (Mg). Magnesium, like calcium (Ca), is essential for normal nerve and muscle function.

Click [HERE](#) to read more!



Don't Chase Price per Pound at the Expense of Value per Head

-Kenny Burdine



Over the last few months, I have been able to talk with a lot of cattle producers at Extension programs. As you can imagine, the strength of the cattle market is almost always the first topic of discussion. We are seeing prices like we have never seen before for cattle of all types and weights. But my observation has been that producers tend to become a bit more enamored than they should with price per pound and sometimes don't think as much as they should about value per head.

Click [HERE](#) to read more!

Prevent Parasites Through Grazing Management

-Melanie Barkley, Penn State

Parasites continue to plague many sheep and goat producers throughout the grazing season. Internal parasites decrease growth rates and in high levels can even cause death. However, sheep and goat producers can follow several practices to minimize the impacts to their flock or herd.

Click [HERE](#) to read more!



WILDLIFE

Woods are Ready for Spring Hunting Seasons

-Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife

Kentucky's spring hunting seasons kick off with the youth-only turkey season April 5-6, followed by the general season for turkeys April 12-May 4. Spring squirrel season, a popular activity for both novice and experienced hunters, commences May 17 and continues for nearly a month, concluding June 15. "During our winter netting and leg banding research, we caught an unusually high number of jakes, or younger birds," said Zak Danks, Wild Turkey Program coordinator for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. "This aligns with the productive poult hatch in 2024, so I expect hunters will see more jakes this spring."
Click [HERE](#) to read more!

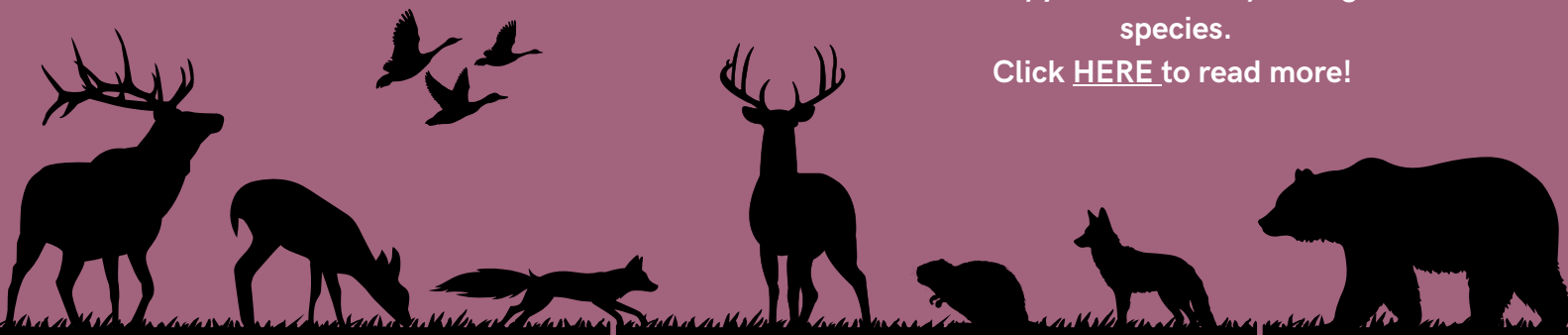


What Are Invasive Species and Why Should I Care?

-Diana Evans & Lenny Farlee

Invasive species are any plant, animal, insect or plant disease not native to a specific location that can cause harm to the environment, impact the diversity of native species, reduce wildlife habitat or disrupt important ecosystem functions. Why should you care about invasive species? Invasive species limit land use, degrade natural resources and inhibit recreational pursuits such as hunting, fishing, bird watching, and foraging. They also negatively impact fisheries, agricultural and forestry industries, destabilize soil and alter water resources. Invasive species also out compete natives and are costly to control with estimates showing that the U.S. spends \$137 billion/year to control/manage invasive species.

Click [HERE](#) to read more!



FLOODING RESOURCES

Extension Disaster Preparedness & Recovery

-University of Kentucky

Work involving Disaster Preparedness and Recovery by the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service is a collaboration with our partner institution Kentucky State University and the Kentucky Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN), to develop resources to support Extension agents as they educate their communities about disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. Click [HERE](#) for more information!



Disaster Assistance Program Loss Documentation

-Farm Service Agency

Producers need to also report all cropland and pastureland, even if they are not participating in other FSA programs as previous disaster assistance programs required producers to file crop reports to qualify. Click [HERE](#) for more information!

Severe Weather Safety Tips: Flooding

-Kentucky Emergency Management

Floods are one of the most common disasters in Kentucky. They can affect just one neighborhood or span several counties or states. River floods grow slowly over several days of heavy rain. Flooding can even occur when it is not raining. You need to know what to do when a flood occurs no matter where you live. Knowing what to do is even more important if you live in a low-lying area, near a river or a dam. Click [HERE](#) for more information!





MOBILE PROCESSING UNIT TRAINING

This training is required to use the KSU Mobile Processing Unit. The MPU can be used to process chickens, rabbits, some aquaculture species and other non-amenable species. Space is limited to 20 people for each training, but another training will be scheduled if needed.

May 7th or May 16th

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Harold R. Benson Research
and Demonstration Farm**

1525 Mills Lane Frankfort, KY
40601

Cost: \$75



**KENTUCKY STATE
UNIVERSITY**
Land Grant Program

TO REGISTER CONTACT: MEGAN GOINS
(MEGAN.GOINS@KYSU.EDU 502-597.6528)

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



Thursday, May 29th

6-7:30pm CDT

7-8:30pm EDT

Register Now!

ukfcs.net/AgS

April Events



Scott County Fair

June 16th - 21st

at

the Scott County
Fairgrounds



Kentucky State Fair

August 14th - 23rd

at

the Kentucky State Fair
Grounds

BEEF PASTURE *Workshop*



*Join us for a hands-on field day
with new research and
information about NovaGraz
and DuraCor*



Tuesday, May 13th
5:30p.m.



Golden Age Farm
2335 Old Lemons Mill Rd.
Lexington, KY 40511



RSVP by May 2nd
Call: 502-863-0984
Email: brittany.brewer@uky.edu



**DURACOR &
NOVAGRAZ PLOTS**

**PASTURE
MANAGEMENT**

**WEED
IDENTIFICATION**

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Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.