

THE FARMACY

FEBRUARY NEWS

UK Martin-Gatton
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Agent Remarks

I hope you all have been doing well. I have been busy with winter programming the past few months, as well as attending conferences.

With the beginning of the new year being cold, wet, and snowy be sure to monitor any damage to pastures. Many producers have called in regards to hay or haylage sampling for winter feeding or to sell hay. Feel free to reach out if you are interested in getting hay tests.

The United States has seen an uptick in avian influenza in recent weeks. A large portion of this disease is spread through wild birds. The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife is doing a great job monitoring the spread. I know that we don't have many large poultry facilities in our area, but backyard flocks are still at risk. For more information check out page 7.

Reach out if you all have any questions!

Stay safe this February!

Brittany



In This Issue

.....

Agent Remarks.....1

Crops.....2

Ag Economics and Policy.....3

Forage News.....4

February Recipe.....5

Conservation Corner.....5

Livestock.....6

Wildlife.....7

Events.....8-11



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Agriculture and Natural Resources
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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.

Crops

What's Your Grain Marketing Plan?

-Andrew Frankenfield, Penn State University

"I should have sold more when it was higher."
Have you said or thought this? I have heard it.

My response was, "What is your plan?"

Sometimes, the response I get is, "I can't sell now when it is almost a dollar lower than it was a month ago. So, I'll just harvest the crop, put it in the bin, wait and see what happens."

Marketing decisions and pretty much all decisions are much clearer in hindsight. No one can predict the future so don't beat yourself up over what you did or didn't do. Rather, look ahead and plan, write it down, and here is the kicker: refer back to the plan and follow it.

Click [HERE](#) to read more!



Fertilizer Prices: What Can we Expect in 2025?

-Andrew Wright, Texas A & M

Over the last few years, producers have been challenged to balance decreasing commodity prices against high input costs. One of the major factors contributing to this challenge has been above-average fertilizer prices. In 2021 and 2022, a combination of increased demand for fertilizer and disruptions to fertilizer production and supply caused prices to double or, in the case of anhydrous ammonia (NH₃), triple in a few months (Figure 1), reaching record highs. The good news is that nominal fertilizer prices decreased throughout 2023 and 2024 as these shocks were largely corrected.

Click [HERE](#) to read more!

Ag Economics and Policy

Why Grocery Inflation Still Feels High

-Ashley Kim & Sungeun Yoon, University of Florida

Since November 2023, grocery inflation (food-at-home, FAH) has slowed to around 1%, following fluctuations in 2021 and 2023 that peaked at 13.5% (US BLS). However, the perception of grocery inflation remains relatively high. Our monthly consumer survey of approximately 500 primary grocery shoppers in the US reveals that a significant share of consumers still perceives grocery inflation as high (Figure 1).[1] Over 60% of respondents reported high inflation perceptions between July 2023 and May 2024 when the average FAH inflation rate was 1.8%. Several factors contribute to the persistently high perception of inflation among consumers.

Click [HERE](#) to read more!



Agricultural Land: To Own or To Rent?

-Samantha Ayoub, American Farm Bureau

In 2022, 39% of agricultural land was rented – a proportion that has remained relatively stable for over 50 years. When deciding how to acquire land, rising farm real estate values can be a valuable asset or an extra hit to growing production expenses. Farmers and ranchers who operate a mix of owned and rented land make up over half of agricultural land in production and are affected by both sides of land value spikes.

Click [HERE](#) to read more!



Forage News

Frost Seeding

-University of Kentucky Forage Extension

The frost seeding method allows seeds to be inter-seeded into undisturbed soils by scattering seed on top of the ground. The freezing and thawing action of the soil works the seeds into the soil where they can germinate. In Kentucky, the ideal time to frost seed is between February 10 and March 1, with mid-February preferred. It is important to consider what forage species can be successfully frost seeded. Seeding red and white clover is recommended using this method. While it is possible to frost seed some grass species, it is typically less successful and generally not recommended. Using this technique can reduce machine use and seeding cost. It is also beneficial as it can be done at times when utilizing heavy machinery would damage pastures such as extremely wet periods. Individual pasture characteristics should also be considered when deciding if frost seeding will be successful on your farm.

Click [HERE](#) to read more!



USDA Hay Production Update

-USDA

The USDA, NASS Annual Crop Production report released January 10th. This document includes acreage, yield, production, and stocks data for Kentucky hay, with historical comparisons.

Report highlights; Farmers harvested 5,000,000 tons of dry alfalfa and other hay in 2024, up 13% from 2023.

Click [HERE](#) to read more!

Forage Timely Tips: February

- Remove animals from waterlogged pastures to limit pugging and soil compaction.
- Continue grazing stockpiled tall fescue if available.
- Assess grass stands. If thin, consider frost seeding legumes.
- Begin frost seeding with at least 6-8 lb/A red and 1-2 lb/A ladino white clover on closely grazed pastures.
- On pastures with lower fertility, consider adding 10-15 lb/A annual lespedeza to the above recommendation.
- Consider applying N at 40 lb/A in mid to late February on some pastures to promote early growth (not on frost seeded pastures).
- Sign up for shared use drills for spring renovation.
- Apply lime and fertilizer according to soil test if not done in fall.
- Control problem weeds like buttercup in late February when day temperatures are forecast above 50 degrees for 3 consecutive days.



One-pot Pasta with Fresh Tomato Sauce

12 ounces tri-colored pasta	1 teaspoon dried oregano	6 ounces baby spinach with stems removed
8 medium tomatoes, diced**	1 tablespoon fresh basil, chopped or	Parmesan cheese to top
2 cups low-sodium chicken broth	1 teaspoon dried	Fresh basil for garnish (optional)
1 small yellow onion, sliced	1 teaspoon salt	
4 garlic cloves, minced or 2 tablespoons garlic powder		

Place all of the ingredients except the spinach, parmesan, and additional fresh basil in a large pot. **Cover** pot with lid and **bring** to boil over medium-high heat. **Reduce** heat to medium-low and **let simmer** for 6 minutes or until pasta is slightly al dente, **stir** occasionally. **Remove** from heat. **Stir** in spinach; **cover** and **let** stand 5 minutes. **Top** with parmesan cheese and basil just before serving.

**Substitute 2, 14-ounce cans low-sodium diced tomatoes when tomatoes are out of season.

Yield: 6, 1 ½ cup servings

Nutritional Analysis:

260 calories, 2g fat, 0g saturated fat, 0g trans fat, 0mg cholesterol, 460mg sodium, 51g carbohydrate, 3g fiber, 8g total sugars, 0g added sugars, 12g 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:

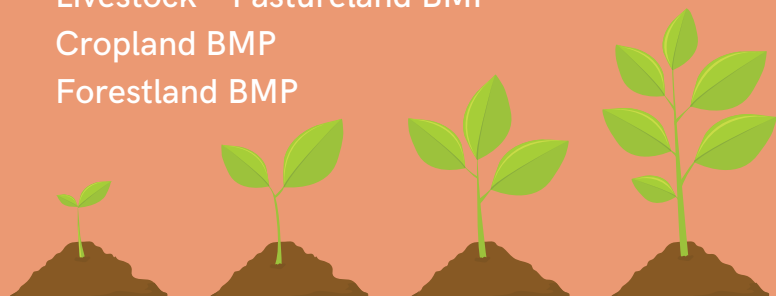
- Gateway, Barn Entrance & Heavy Traffic Corridor Erosion Control Program
- Pipeline and Waterer
- Cover Crop
- Pasture Renovation

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

Placements Lower Than Expected in January Cattle-On-Feed Report

-Kenny Burdine

The January Cattle on Feed report was released on Friday afternoon. Total on-feed inventory to start the year was estimated at a little over 11.8 million head, which is down by just under 1% from January of 2024. Even though feeder cattle supplies have been lower, feedlot inventories ran above year-ago levels for eight of twelve months in 2024 as lower feed prices encouraged longer feeding times. While I don't want to read too much into it, this was the largest year-over-year decline since May.

Click [HERE](#) to read more!



Weaning Practices Limit Stress to Ewes and Lambs

-Melanie Barkley, Penn State

Ewes baaing, lambs crying, and shepherds wishing for quiet: will the noise never cease! These are all signs that weaning is commencing. However, some of that baaing and crying can be minimized if shepherds take a few simple steps to prepare for weaning. And, this can limit the stress to both ewes and lambs in the flock.

Click [HERE](#) to read more!

Spring Pasture Management Do's and Don'ts

-David Brown, University of Missouri

After a long, cold winter in much of the United States, many farms and their fields will need some work come spring. The following guidelines will help ensure your pasture management efforts are both beneficial and economical for your farm.

Click [HERE](#) to read more!



WILDLIFE

Kentucky Deer Hunters Achieve Record Successes in 2024-25 Season

-Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife

Hunters collectively recorded a near record harvest of deer during Kentucky's just concluded 2024-25 season. Hunters took 149,868 deer - the state's second-highest harvest ever recorded. Additionally, hunters harvested more deer from public land than any previous year. The percentage of antlered deer taken this past season also set a record. "We're very pleased with harvest results," Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Deer Program Coordinator Joe McDermott said. "We had a great season, even with subpar weather at times."

Click [HERE](#) to read more!

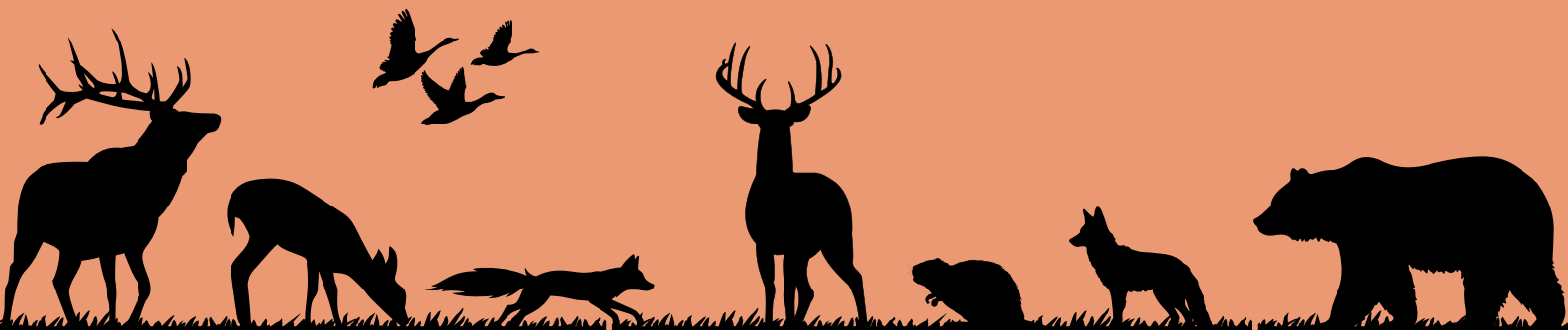


Avian Influenza

-Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's responsibilities and actions include. Monitoring wild bird and mammal populations for mortality events and submitting received specimens for HPAI testing. Testing a random sample of live and hunter-harvested waterfowl for HPAI. Collaborating with partners to minimize the transmission of HPAI in wildlife, safeguarding the health of wildlife, domestic animals, and people. Providing biosecurity guidance to hunters, wildlife enthusiasts, wildlife rehabilitators, and outdoor recreationists on reducing the transmission of HPAI to safeguard the health of wildlife, domestic animals, and people.

Click [HERE](#) to read more!

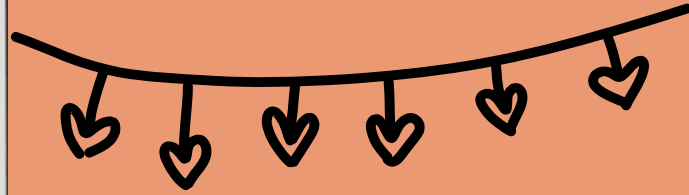


Beef Quality Assurance Training

~~Session 1: January 22nd at 5:30pm~~
Session 2: February 20th at 8am

Sessions will be held at the Scott County Extension Office, 1130 Cincinnati Rd. Georgetown, KY. You only need to attend one session. Individuals with an expiring BQCA Certification will receive information in the mail. For questions or to RSVP call the Scott County Extension Office at 502-863-0984.

February Events



Private Applicator Training

~~Session 1: January 29th at 5:30pm~~
Session 2: February 27th at 8am

Sessions will be held at the Scott County Extension Office, 1130 Cincinnati Rd. Georgetown, KY. You only need to attend one session. If your certification is expiring you will receive information in the mail about it. For questions or to RSVP call the Scott County Extension Office at 502-863-0984.

 Cooperative Extension Service



2025 Central Kentucky Tobacco Grower Meeting GAP Training & Crop Update

When: March 13, 2025, 9 - 11 A.M.
Where: Woodford County Extension Office
184 Beasley Drive
Versailles, KY 40383

Program will include:

- Production & Crop Update: Dr. Bob Pearce & Dr. Andy Bailey
- Labor Training
- GAPC Update

Light breakfast will be provided.

**Please RSVP to the
Woodford County
Extension Office at
(859) 873-4601.**

**CAIP
Eligible**

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

CAIP Eligible

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.

2025

Kentucky Commodity all Crop Protection Webinar Series

January 16, 2025

Winter Wheat Meeting

February 4, 2025

2025 Kentucky Crop Health Conference

February 6, 2025

Wheat Field Day

May 13, 2025

Pest Management Field Day

June 26, 2025

Corn, Soybean & Tobacco Field Day

July 22 or July 29, 2025

CAIP Eligible

National Farm Machinery Show

February 14th - 17th

at

the Kentucky Expo Center

9am - 5pm daily



Kentucky Beef Expo

February 28 -

March 2nd

at

the Kentucky Expo Center



**CAIP
Eligible**

MID-SOUTH STOCKER CONFERENCE WEBINAR

18 February, 2025 7:30 PM Eastern Time

2025 Mid-South Stocker Conference Webinar Series:

Part 1 - Coproduct Feeding & Animal Health

Dr. Katie VanValin, University of Kentucky -

Dr. John Grove, Livestock Veterinary Service

Register in advance for this webinar:



25 February, 2025 7:30 PM Eastern Time

2025 Mid-South Stocker Conference Webinar Series:

Part 2 - Heifer Development & Vaccination Updates

Dr. Katie Mason, University of Tennessee -

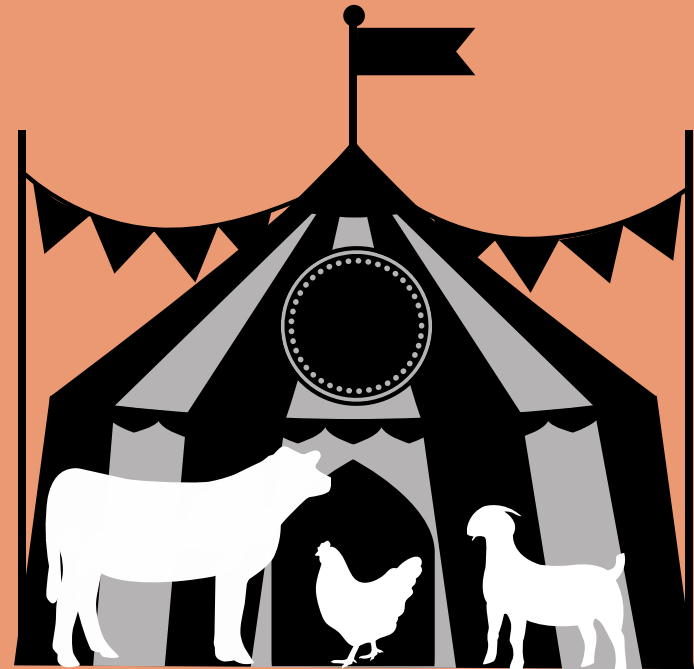
Dr. George Perry, Texas A&M AgriLife Research &
Extension Center in Overton

Register in advance for this webinar:



After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. **Please make sure to register for both sessions to ensure your spot.**

Scott County Fair June 16th - 21st at the Scott County Fairgrounds



2025 Horses & Horsemen:

Join us for the 18th annual

PASTURES PLEASE!!

Thursday, February 27



Schedule:

5:30—Meal

6:00—Aerial Applications: Does a Drone Fit
— Brett Reese

6:30—Weeds to Watch Out For
— Dr. Bill Witt

7:00—Cost Share Opportunities for Horse Owners
— Krista Lea

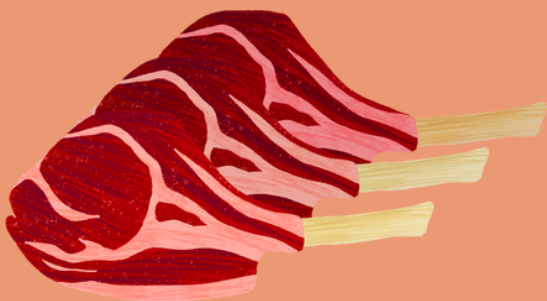
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RSVP to 859-257-5582

**Fayette County
Extension Office**
1140 Harry Sykes Way
Lexington, KY 40504

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FEBRUARY IS
Lamb
MONTH



Join the Movement! Come learn about Novel!

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**March
6
2025**

Novel Endophyte Tall Fescue Renovation Workshop
Grayson County Ext. Office | 64 Quarry Rd, Leitchfield, KY 42754

 **Martin-Gatton**
College of Agriculture,
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University of Kentucky.



Topics Covered:

- Toxicosis Management
- Seed Quality
- Establishment
- Novel Endophyte Tall Fescue Products

Register online at <https://NETFWorkshopKY25.eventbrite.com> | QR code on back

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US Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.

BREEDING SOUNDNESS EXAMS



Come get your bulls evaluated at a breeding soundness exam clinic at a discounted price of \$85.00. Exams will be **April 5th** at Bluegrass Stockyards Lexington starting at 8am **by appointment only**. Appointments must be scheduled by **March 28th 2025 before 4:30pm**.

To make an appointment email:

 brittany.brewer@uky.edu

Questions? Call: 502-863-0984

Bluegrass Stockyards Lexington: 4561 Iron Works Pike, Lexington, KY 40511



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