

# 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 has been crazy since school has officially started back and so have my trainings! As pictured above, you can see a Laurel Wilt infected Sassafras tree, which I learned about in one of my recent forestry trainings. September seems to have been the month of council meetings as well. I attended numerous program council meetings in and out of the extension umbrella.

**Harvest Festival 2024** planning is underway! We have changed the times to 3:30-5:30 knowing the time will have changed by then. We will have all kinds of fun activities for families to enjoy together! Take a look at some of the pumpkins that I have growing for the Harvest Festival (as pictured above)!

My **Pepper Variety Trial** is still going strong even after I have harvested over 1,800 peppers so far! These are just a few peppers from harvest(as pictured above)! If you are interested in coming by to try the peppers let us know! We would be happy to give you some to try!

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# Ag & Natural Resources Events and News for Everyone

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

## Harvest Festival

**3:30 PM to 5:30 PM**  
**November 15th, 2024**

**McCracken County Cooperative Extension Office**  
2025 New Holt Rd  
Paducah, KY 42001

A fun, FREE event for families and friends! We will have pumpkin painting and picking, games, taste testing, hands on harvest activities and crafts, a fall photobooth, fundraising opportunities, and much more!

**Free entry**

**For more information call 270-554-9520**

**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**  
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, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. 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 University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.  
Lexington, KY 40506

Disability accommodations with prior notification.

## EXPLORING CAREERS WITH 4-H

## AG CAREERS

**October 7  
9 AM - noon**

**Overview:**

- Led by the McCracken County AG Agent Gracey Moffitt.
- Learn about AG Careers in our local community and beyond.
- 2025 New Holt Road Paducah, KY 42001
- For more information, please contact Rachael Davis at 270 554-9520 or Rachaelldavis@uky.edu.

**What is required to attend:**

- McCracken county resident or attend school in McCracken County.
- Currently In 6th thru 12th grade.
- Registration is required due to limited spots.

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

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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.

# MURDER MYSTERY DINNER THEATER

## MURDER COUNTRY STYLE

**SATURDAY, OCT. 26**

**DINNER-7:00**

**DOORS OPEN AT 6:30**

**MCCRACKEN COUNTY  
EXTENSION OFFICE**

**2025 NEW HOLT RD. PADUCAH, KY**

**ORDER TICKETS AT  
BADGETTPLAYHOUSE.COM  
OR CALL (888)362-4223**

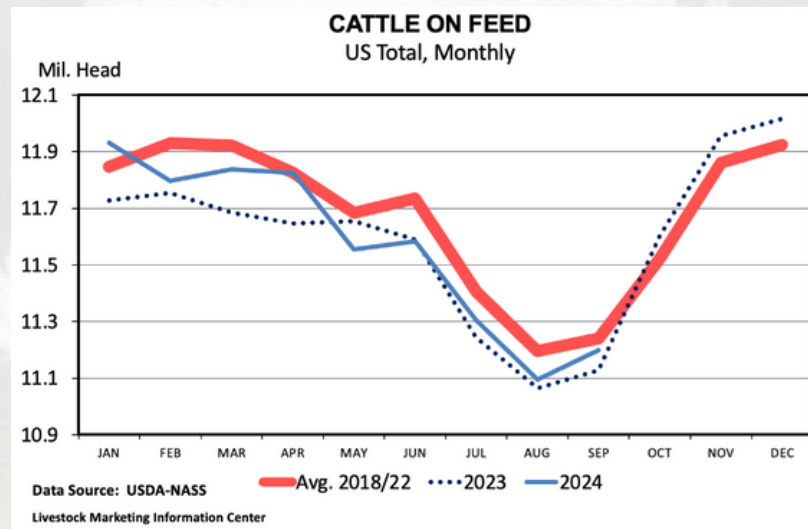
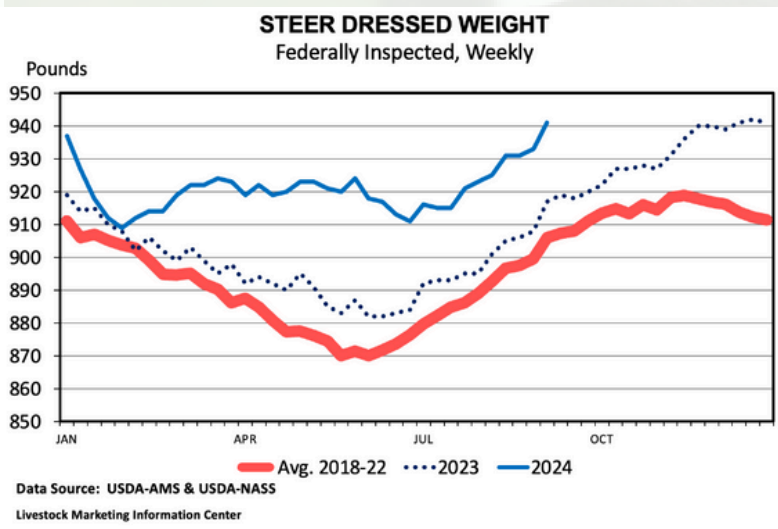
GRAND RIVERS, KY

# Livestock Events and News

## Cattle on Feed and Record-High August Fed Cattle Weights

By: Josh Maples, Mississippi State University

Date: 9/23/2024



The latest USDA Cattle on Feed report was released Friday and showed placements of cattle into feedlots during August were 1.4 percent lower than during August 2023. Marketings of fed cattle out of feedlots were down about 3.5 percent from a year ago, partially due to one less business day in August 2024 than in August 2023. Both of these numbers were within pre-report expectations and will likely not be big market movers.

Most of the decline in placements from a year ago occurred in placements of cattle weighing less than 800 pounds. Placements of cattle in this weight range were 3.4 percent lower while placements of cattle weighing more than 800 pounds were 1.4 percent higher. Placements in both Kansas and Nebraska were down about 3 percent while placements in Texas were down nearly 6 percent as compared to a year-ago. Placements in Colorado were the exception and were up nearly 30 percent.

Despite the lower placements, the total number of cattle in feedlots with more than 1,000 head capacity on September 1st was up 0.6 percent compared to a year ago. This continues the trend of cattle staying in feedlots longer. Total placements of cattle into feedlots during 2024 is down about 2 percent but longer feeding periods have reduced turnover and helped to keep inventory levels from fully reflecting the declining calf crop totals.

Longer feeding periods are leading to higher cattle weights. The average dressed weight for federally inspected steers during August 2024 was 930 pounds. Assuming a dressing percentage of 62.5 percent, this suggests an average live weight of 1,488 pounds. This is the highest August steer dressed weight average on record, easily surpassing the 911-pound average during August 2020. Heifer dressed weights also hit an August record at 840 pounds on average. The higher dressed weights are offsetting much of the impact of lower cattle numbers on beef production. Total beef production in 2024 is now expected to be very close to beef production in 2023 despite fewer head processed.

### Cattle Market Notes Weekly

Josh Maples



James Mitchell



Kenny Burdine





# Livestock

## 2024 HEART OF AMERICA GRAZING CONFERENCE

*Regenerative grazing... Merging science and practice*

**Tuesday, October 15, 2024**

Pasture Ecology Workshop with Matt Poore, North Carolina State University  
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. ET  
Glenmar Farms, 16943 St. John Road, Cecelia, KY 42724

Tickets can be found at <https://2024HeartofAmerica.eventbrite.com>

Heart of America Banquet  
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. ET  
Hardin County Extension Office, 111 Opportunity Way, Elizabethtown, KY  
Capturing the Beauty of Forages with Dr. Jimmy Henning

**Wednesday, October 16, 2024**

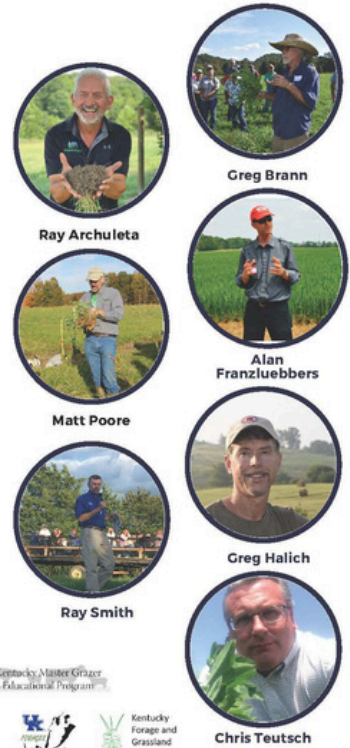
Heart of America Grazing Conference  
7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. ET  
Hardin County Extension Office, 111 Opportunity Way, Elizabethtown, KY

- Healing the Land with Grazing  
Ray Archuleta, Raythesoilguy LLC
- Soil Health: Separating Fact from Fiction  
Alan Franzluebbers, USDA Ag Research Service
- Bale Grazing for Biological Fertility and Soil Health  
Greg Halich, University of Kentucky
- My Regenerative Journey  
Sam Kennedy, Kettle Mills Livestock Co.
- Build It and They Will Come... Managing for Soil Life  
Chris Teutsch, University of Kentucky
- Putting it All Together... A Call to Action  
Matt Poore, North Carolina State University

**Thursday, October 17, 2024**

Pasture Walk at Greg Brann's Big Springs Farm  
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. CT  
683 Blankenship Rd, Adolphus, KY 42120

Tickets can be found at <https://2024HeartofAmerica.eventbrite.com>



Kentucky Master Grazer Educational Program



Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council

**UK** Martin-Gatton  
College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment  
Cooperative Extension  
Marshall County  
\* 2081 Mayfield Highway \*  
Benton, KY 42025  
(270) 527-3285

### Bull Value Assessment Program

"Very educational. I really enjoyed getting to see things in action at the mock auction"  
-past participant

"(BVAEP) really assisted with understanding real world usage of EPD'S"  
-past participant

**October 14th & 22nd  
6:00PM**

**Free meal both nights!**

**@ The New Marshall County Extension Office**

**RSVP Required  
Call 270-527-3285**

This two night program is designed to help producers make future bull buying decisions.

This "mock" bull buying experience allows producers to fine tune their bull evaluating, selecting and purchasing skills at a live, no risk, auction simulation!

This program is a collaboration of the Marshall, Callaway, Graves, McCracken & Livingston County Extension Offices.

**Cooperative Extension Service**

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

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University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Extension Cooperative,  
Lexington, KY 40506



# Row Crops & Forages

## Events and News

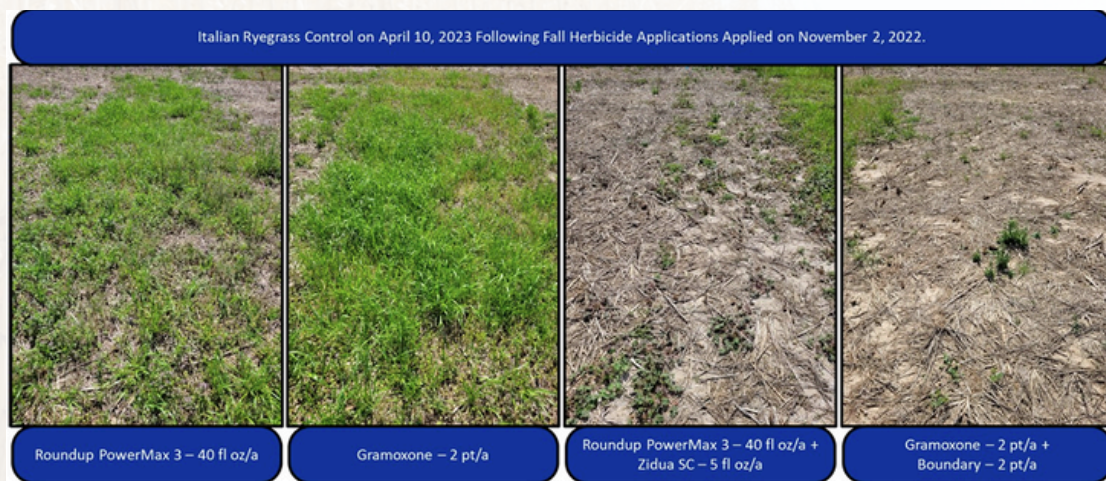
### Fall Residual Herbicides and Cover Crops Can Help with Ryegrass

Source: Dr. Travis Legleiter, UK Extension Weed Specialist

Date: 9/13/24

Italian ryegrass (aka annual ryegrass) is becoming an increasingly problematic weed for Kentucky grain crop producers across the state. Growers are no longer just dealing with ryegrass in wheat, but rather are also dealing with ryegrass escapes and burndown failures prior to corn and soybean planting each spring. Traditionally we have relied on spring burndown applications for control of winter annuals, including ryegrass, prior to corn and soybean planting. While this strategy is highly effective against the majority of winter annual weed species, Italian ryegrass is now challenging this strategy. We need to explore alternative strategies to reduce the pressure on spring burndown applications that are increasingly failing to control Italian ryegrass. This is where the use of fall residual herbicides is an option that can relieve the pressure on the spring burndown applications.

Several products that contain pyroxasulfone or S-metolachlor either have federal label language or 24 (c) special needs labels that allow for application in the fall for control of Italian ryegrass or fall germinating weeds. A list of products that have label language allowing for fall applications is contained in Table 1, along with application rates and replant restrictions.



Research trials evaluating fall applied residual herbicides were conducted at the University of Kentucky Research and Education Center in Princeton, KY in 2022 and 2023. Additionally, a trial evaluating residual herbicide and cover crop combinations was implemented in 2023.

- All residual herbicides provided greater than 94% ryegrass control the following spring and had greater control than a burndown herbicide alone which provided 2% control of ryegrass.
- Winter annual ground cover was significantly reduced by all residual herbicide as compared to a fall burndown without a residual herbicide indicating an increased risk of potential soil erosion with the use of fall residual herbicides.
- Italian ryegrass density five months after fall residual applications was reduced to one to two plants per square foot as compared to a non-residual burndown application with 14 plants per square foot.
- The use of residual herbicides increased control of Italian ryegrass in the spring following applications both applied pre and post to cover crop emergence.
- The combination of residual herbicides and cover crops resulted in the greatest control of Italian ryegrass.



# Row Crops & Forages

## KENTUCKY YIELD CONTESTS

The Kentucky Extension Yield Contests are administered by the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service. Additional information, contest rules and entry forms for these contests can be found on [KyGrains.info](http://KyGrains.info) or Scan the QR codes below:

### 2024 Kentucky Corn Production Contest

Send in harvest results within two weeks of the final supervised yield check per individual entry or no later than **December 2, 2024**, whichever is the earlier date.

#### Contest Classes

- A. Division I: Tillage, Non-irrigated
- B. Division II: No-Till, Non-irrigated
- C. Division III: White Corn, Non-irrigated
- D. Division IV: Irrigated Corn



The Kentucky Extension Corn Production Contest and the NCGA Corn Contest are two separate contests.

### 2024 Kentucky Soybean Production Contest

Forms A, B, & C Must Be ENTIRELY completed and submitted on or before **November 30, 2024** to be eligible for awards.

#### 1. Soybean Yield Contest

- A. Full Season - Non-Irrigated
- B. Full Season - Irrigated
- C. Double Crop - Non-Irrigated
- D. Double Crop - Irrigated



#### 2. Soybean Quality Contest (oil and protein)



Grain and Forage  
Center of Excellence

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

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LEXINGTON, KY 40546



## 2024 Fall Crop Protection Webinar Series scheduled for October and November

Sign up now for a popular webinar series that addresses timely topics regarding integrated pest management for field crops. University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment extension specialists have once again organized the Fall Crop Protection Webinar Series, hosted through the Southern Integrated Pest Management Center. Each webinar will begin at 10 a.m. ET/9 a.m. CT, and will be one hour in length. Continuing education credits for Certified Crop Advisors and Kentucky pesticide applicators will be available.



2024 Fall Crop Protection  
Webinar Series

This year the webinars will be held Oct. 15, Oct. 29, Nov. 12, and Nov. 26. Pre-registration is required to attend each webinar. The webinars are open to agriculture and natural resource county extension agents, crop consultants, farmers, industry professionals, and others, whether they reside or work in Kentucky or outside the state. Pre-registration links and schedules follow:



**Webinar #1: Oct. 15** — Dr. Raul Villanueva, Extension Entomologist

**Title:** Dealing with stink bugs and other insect pests in 2023-24

**Webinar link:** [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_MAppWNeZR5yCSoTGMGUj\\_Q](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MAppWNeZR5yCSoTGMGUj_Q)



**Webinar #2: Oct. 29** — Dr. Kiersten A. Wise, Extension Plant Pathologist

**Title:** Maximizing disease control AND return on investment for corn fungicides

**Webinar link:** [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_irdgz-OATPy3hCKsOVxyGQ](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_irdgz-OATPy3hCKsOVxyGQ)



**Webinar #3: Nov. 12** — Dr. Travis Legleiter, Extension Weeds Specialist

**Title:** Spray Application Parameters – The Offensive Line of Herbicide Applications

**Webinar link:** [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_rxH9T0W4T4a3HZRFAqGA1w](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rxH9T0W4T4a3HZRFAqGA1w)



**Webinar #4: Nov. 26** — Dr. Carl Bradley, Extension Plant Pathologist

**Title:** Management of important wheat diseases in Kentucky

**Webinar link:** [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_NURPmPdGQICwWGHR-qOCEw](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NURPmPdGQICwWGHR-qOCEw)



THE KENTUCKY SOYBEAN BOARD IS CONTINUING TO FUND FREE SOYBEAN CYST NEMATODE (SCN) TESTING. FALL AND SPRING (BEFORE PLANTING) ARE THE BEST TIMES TO COLLECT SOIL SAMPLES FROM FIELDS FOR SCN TESTING. TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE FREE SCN TESTING, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL AG AGENT.



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

# Upcoming Office Events

	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5
MON		<b>7:</b> Exploring Careers with 4-H: Ag Careers 9-12 (RSVP, 6th-12th grades)  Exploring Careers with 4-H: Aviation Careers 1-4 (RSVP, 7th-9th grades, Midwest Aviation Services)	<b>14:</b> District Board Meeting 11 (RSVP)  Bull Value Assessment Program 6 (RSVP, Marshall Co. Extension Office)	<b>21:</b> 	<b>28:</b> Better than Ever: 3D Door Hangers (RSVP, \$25-\$45)
TUE	<b>1:</b> Game Day 9-12  Adult Sewing 9-11  Toolbox: Tulips 5-6	<b>8:</b> Adult Sewing 9-11  Exploring Careers with 4-H: Law Careers 9-3 (RSVP, 6th-11th grades)  4-H Amateur Radio Club 5 (RSVP, 12+)	<b>15:</b> Bags of Love 9:30-1:30  Laugh and Learn 11-12 (at Library)	<b>22:</b> Adult Sewing 9-11  4-H Amateur Radio Club 5 (RSVP, 12+)  Bull Value Assessment Program 6 (RSVP, Marshall Co. Extension Office)	<b>29:</b> Adult Sewing 9-11
WED	<b>2:</b> McCracken Co Beautification Board Meeting 10-11:30	<b>9:</b> Exploring Careers with 4-H: Law Careers 9-12 (RSVP, 6th-11th grades)  Tech Class: Managing Digital Photos 10-11  Paint Fan Dance 1-3	<b>16:</b> Scrapbooking 9-3	<b>23:</b> Air Sculpt Yoga 1-3	<b>30:</b>
THURS	<b>3:</b> Needlework Club 10-12  Crochet Alley & Knit Row 1-3	<b>10:</b> Exploring Careers with 4-H: Military 9-3 (RSVP, 9th-12th grades)	<b>17:</b> 	<b>24:</b>	<b>31:</b> 
FRI	<b>4:</b> Global Kitchen Experience: Baklava 5:30 (RSVP)	<b>11:</b> Exploring Careers with 4-H: Law Enforcement Careers 12-4 (RSVP, 6th-10th grades)  Arts & Crafts Day: Button Tree on Canvas 9:30 (RSVP, \$5 fee)	<b>18:</b> 	<b>25:</b>	

## Event Calendar for October 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



## Beefy Stuffed Peppers

**1 cup** uncooked, whole wheat couscous  
**1** small tomato, diced  
**½ cup** garbanzo beans  
**1 teaspoon** dried Italian seasoning

**¼ teaspoon** ground black pepper  
**1 teaspoon** salt  
**½ cup** low fat shredded mozzarella cheese

**4** large bell peppers  
**½ pound** lean ground beef  
**1 tablespoon** chopped green onion  
**1 tablespoon** minced garlic

**Cook** couscous according to package directions. **Preheat** oven to 350 degrees F. **Combine** cooked couscous, tomato, beans, Italian seasoning, pepper, salt and mozzarella cheese in large bowl; set aside. **Remove** the tops, seeds and membranes from peppers. **Cook** peppers in boiling water for 5 minutes; **drain** upside down on paper towels. **Cook** beef until lightly browned in skillet. **Add** minced garlic and green onions to beef and sauté until

soft. **Drain** fat. **Toss** beef mixture into the couscous mixture. **Stuff** bell peppers evenly with mixture. **Place** in a lightly greased 9 x 9 inch baking dish. **Bake** for 15-20 minutes or until peppers are tender and cheese is melted.

**Yield:** 4 servings

**Nutritional Analysis:** 280 calories, 6 g fat, 2.5 g saturated fat, 35 mg cholesterol, 790 mg sodium, 36 g carbohydrate, 7 g fiber, 6 g sugar, 21 g protein



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

## Kentucky Bell Peppers

**SEASON:** June through the first frost, usually September.

**NUTRITION FACTS:** Bell peppers are low in calories, high in vitamin C and a good source of vitamin A. One raw, medium-sized pepper contains about 20 calories. Red peppers are higher in both vitamins C and A than green peppers.

**SELECTION:** Select peppers that are heavy for their size, with bright, shiny skins. Avoid flabby, wrinkled or soft peppers.

**STORAGE:** Store in the refrigerator for 3 to 5 days. Place them in the vegetable crisper or in plastic bags.

**PREPARATION:** To prepare peppers, wash carefully without bruising. Peppers can be served raw, grilled, stuffed or roasted. Add them to salads, casseroles, Chinese or Mexican dishes.

**PRESERVING:** Wash and stem peppers. Package, leaving no head space. Seal and freeze.

### KENTUCKY BELL PEPPERS

#### Kentucky Proud Project

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

June 2013

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. For more information, contact your county's Extension agent for Family and Consumer Sciences or visit [www.uky.ag/fcs](http://www.uky.ag/fcs)

COOPERATIVE  
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SERVICE

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UNIVERSITY OF  
KENTUCKY  
College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment

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