

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

Hello Spring! March flew by and I can't believe April is already here! This last month I stayed pretty busy between conferences and trainings across the state, programs, and much more.

I hosted my first Beef related program about **Rotational Grazing** and How to Make it Work for You. we had a great turnout and I hope to offer it again this fall as part of a beef series that I am planning to do.

March is home to **National Ag Day** and this year was the pilot year for **KY Ag Education Week**. So to promote ag education I taught ag related lessons to 2 different schools in our districts: Paducah Tilghman High and Reidland Elementary (as pictured above)

To wrap up the end of the month I helped with the **McCracken County 4-H Communication's Day Speech Competition** as a judge, which is always a great experience! We also hosted our **Annual Tree Seedling Giveaway** in partnership with our Soil Conservation District here in McCracken (as pictured above). We had perfect weather and a great turnout this year! I also had the opportunity to host a program on **Woodland Carbon Credits** which had a great turnout for a hot topic.

April is going to be slowing down with meetings, but I will be picking up the pace with programs here at the office and in some of the schools.

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

Homebased Microprocessing Workshop

Homebased Microprocessors are farmers who grow and harvest produce to use in their value-added products. Homebased microprocessors are required to grow a predominant ingredient in the products they make. The first step to becoming certified as a homebased microprocessor is to attend a Homebased Microprocessor (HBM) workshop presented by the University of Kentucky.


April 21, 2025
9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

McCracken Cty Extension Office
2025 New Holt Rd
Paducah, KY

To register & for additional
dates/locations:
ukfcs.net/HBM

\$50
Fee

(270) 554-9520

 Cooperative
Extension Service

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



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

SEVERE WEATHER

HAZARDS



Over 280 fatalities
occur each year in the
U.S. from thunderstorm
related hazards.

weather.gov/safety

TORNADO
Take shelter
immediately in a
sturdy structure



LARGE HAIL
Move indoors away
from windows



SEVERE WIND
Move indoors away
from windows



FLOODING
Avoid rising
creeks and water
covered roads



LIGHTNING
Move indoors if
you hear thunder



Preparing for Severe
Weather:
Be Aware. Be Prepared.
Stay Informed. Pay
attention to and
Understand Watches vs
Warnings.

Livestock Events and News

Strategies for Managing the Spring Flush

By: Chris D. Teutsch, University of Kentucky Research and Education Center at Princeton

Date: 3/15/2025

In March and April grass growth in the Commonwealth's pastures goes from 0 to 60 mph in just a few short weeks. We often find ourselves impatiently waiting for grass to start growing and then just a few short weeks later wondering what we are going to do with it all! The following suggestions can help you to optimize spring grass growth and utilization.

- Implement rotational grazing. To fully utilize the spring flush of pasture growth YOU must be in control of grazing. In a continuous grazing system, the cows are in charge. By utilizing rotational stocking, you start to make the decisions. Implementing a rotational stocking system may be as simple as closing some gates or stringing up some polywire.
- Feed a little hay in late winter and early spring. It is tempting to just let cattle roam and pick pastures for early grass growth, but this can set pastures back and reduce overall dry matter production. It is important to restrict cattle to one area, feed a little hay, and allow pastures to accumulate 4 to 5" of growth before starting to graze.
- Start grazing at 4 to 5" of growth. Another common mistake that graziers make is waiting too long to start grazing. If you wait until the first paddock is ready to graze, 8-10" of growth, by the time you reach the last paddock it will be out of control. Starting a little bit early allows you to establish a "grazing wedge" (Figure 1).
- Rotate animals rapidly. It is important to realize that grazing pastures closely and repeatedly as they initiate growth in early spring can reduce production for the entire season. Therefore, it is important to keep animals moving rapidly through the system. The general rule is that if grass is growing rapidly then your rotation should be rapid. This will allow you to stay ahead of the grass by topping it off and keeping it in a vegetative state.
- Do not apply spring nitrogen. Applying nitrogen in the spring will make the problem of too much grass at once even worse. In many cases you are better off applying nitrogen in late summer or early fall to stimulate growth for winter stockpiling.
- Remove most productive paddocks from rotation and harvest for hay. Graze all paddocks until the pasture growth is just about to get away from you and then remove those productive paddocks from your rotation and allow them to accumulate growth for hay or baleage harvest.
- Increase stocking rate in the spring. An alternative to harvesting excess forage as hay or baleage is to increase your stocking rate by adding more animal units in the spring and then decreasing animal numbers as plant growth slows due to higher temperature during the summer months. While this is a viable approach, it is not practical on smaller or part-time operations.
- Even out seasonal distribution of forage by adding warm-season grasses. Adding a well-adapted warm-season grass that produces most of its growth in July and August would allow you to concentrate grazing on your cool-season paddocks during periods of rapid growth (spring flush). After cool-season grass growth slows in late spring and early summer, animals can be shifted in the warm-season paddocks for summer grazing.
- Bush-hog out of control pastures. The benefits of clipping include maintaining pastures in a vegetative state, encouraging regrowth, and controlling weeds. Clipping pastures costs money, so make sure that the primary reason for bush-hogging is pasture management, not aesthetics.
- Stockpile out of control pastures for summer grazing. Although forage quality decreases as the plant matures, the quality of spring stockpiled pasture is sufficient for dry cows and in some cases can result in reasonable gains on growing animals during the summer months. This is especially true if using novel endophyte tall fescue and the pastures were clipped at the early boot stage to promote vegetative regrowth. This could be a cost-effective and simple way to provide additional grazing during the summer months.

Managing spring grass can be challenging. It is important to find that "sweet spot" for starting to graze, not too early and not too late! Hopefully one or more of the above tips will help you optimize your spring grass!

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

Set the Stage for a Successful Growing Season with a Strong Burndown

Source: Dr. Travis Legleiter, UK Extension Weed Scientist

Date: 2/14/2025

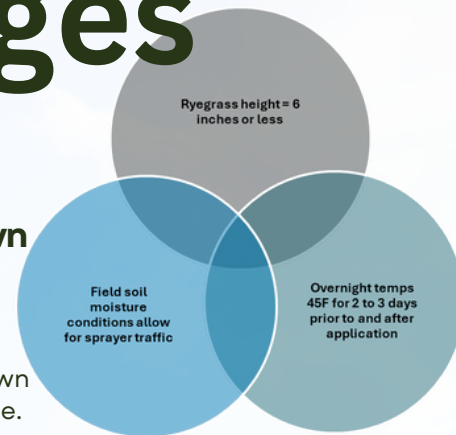


Figure 1. The optimal window for Italian (annual) ryegrass burndown occurs when all three of these parameters occur at the same time.

After a miserably wet February with several spells of unusually cold temps, March is finally bringing spring weather. Along with spring weather comes winter annual weed growth and burndown applications will begin in earnest in the very near future. As the sprayers head to the field, here are a few quick reminders and tips to help start the growing season with a successful herbicide burndown.

Italian Ryegrass Demands Special Attention

Italian Ryegrass (aka annual ryegrass) is an increasing issue on Kentucky corn and soybean acres with failed burndowns increasing every year across the state.

Annual ryegrass is one of the first weeds to green up in late winter and is already taking advantage of the increasing temperatures. One essential key for a successful annual ryegrass burndown is making applications within the window of the three conditions outlined in Figure 1.

Unfortunately, capturing this window of the correct growth stage, air temperatures, and soil conditions can be almost impossible in most Kentucky springs. With the understanding that we may not be able to capture this magical window on every acre, we must focus on maximizing our burndown applications in other ways. We have found based on our research that the following keys are essential to maximizing the burndown of Italian ryegrass (See Figure 2 for further data from our 2024 spring burndown trial):

- Use at least 1.5lb ae/a glyphosate (40 fl oz Roundup PowerMax 3)

This has been shown in UK weed science research numerous times and is the single biggest mistake I find when a failure occurs. Ryegrass burndown applications are NOT the place to cut rates when looking to cut inputs. There is a handy chart on page 17 of [AGR-6](#)

(https://publications.ca.uky.edu/sites/publications.ca.uky.edu/files/AGR6_0.pdf) where you can find the rate of your specific glyphosate product that is equivalent to 1.5 lb ae/a.

- The addition of 1 fl oz Sharpen (or 15 fl oz Verdict) to 1.5 lb ae glyphosate results in the consistently greatest ryegrass control in our research.

Our research in 2024 found preliminary results that the inclusion of MSO as an adjuvant in this tank mix may be the leading contributor to the increased consistency in ryegrass control. We are actively conducting a second year of research to confirm these findings.

- Avoid tank mixing atrazine or metribuzin with glyphosate and as these products will antagonize glyphosate activity on ryegrass
- The best non-glyphosate mixture is Gramoxone plus atrazine or metribuzin plus 2,4-D or dicamba.

Paraquat (Gramoxone) and atrazine or metribuzin are synergistic and increase control as compared to each of the components applied alone. The addition of 2,4-D or dicamba is optional for those fields where troublesome broadleaves like marestail (horseweed) exist.

These tank mixtures work best on small ryegrass and under warm sunny conditions. A follow up application to capture any regrowth should be planned.

- Avoid the use of Select Max (clethodim) or other group 1 herbicides

The group 1 herbicides (clethodim, quizalofop, sethoxadim, etc) work very slowly in comparison to other systemic herbicides when the weather is warm. When you spray these products in the spring when temperatures are cool, especially overnight, this only exacerbates the slow activity and ryegrass almost always escapes application of the group 1 herbicides.

We have heard of a few applicators using low rates of Select Max (2 to 3 fl oz/a) with glyphosate and have observed increased control over glyphosate alone. We always discourage the use of reduced rates of herbicides, as this is a known pathway to herbicide resistance. Additionally, I suspect that the increased activity has less to do with active ingredient (clethodim) and more to do with the EC or 'oily' formulation that is acting as an adjuvant similar to the MSO mentioned above.

Row Crops & Forages

SAVE THE DATE
5 - 13 - 25



UK Wheat Field Day

9 am-12 pm CT

UK Research and Education Center
Princeton, KY



Wheat Science Group |  Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment | Grain and Forage
Center of Excellence

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		7: 4-H Careers: Ag 9-12 (RSVP)	14: District Board Meeting 11-12 (RSVP)	21: Homebased Micro-processing Workshop 9:30-2:30 (\$50 Fee, RSVP) 4-H Virtual Voyagers Video Game Club 4:30-5:30 (RSVP, ages 9-14)	28: Better Than Ever: Suncatcher 1-3 (RSVP, \$45 fee)
TUE	1: Adult Sewing 9-11 Game Day 9-12 Toolbox: Fairy Gardens 5-6 (RSVP, full)	8: Adult Sewing 9-11 4-H Careers: Marketing 9-12 (RSVP)	15: Bags of Love 9:30-1:30 Laugh and Learn 11-12 (Library) Interracial Women's Group 12-1 (\$5 fee)	22: Adult Sewing 9-11	29: Adult Sewing 9-11 Derby Planting Party 2-3 (RSVP)
WED	2: McCracken County Beautification Board Meeting 10-11	9: 4-H Careers: Legal 9-3 pt.1 (RSVP) Tech Class: Spreadsheets II 10-11	16: Scrapbooking 9-3	23:	30:
THURS	3: Needlework Circle 10-12 Crochet Alley & Knit Row 1-3 Camp Graves: Operation Wellness 12-4 4-H Hot Shots Info Night 5	10: 4-H Cardmaking & Scrapbooking Class 9-12 (RSVP, ages 9-18) 4-H Careers: Legal Mock Court 9-12 pt.2 (RSVP) 4-H Careers: Space 1-3 (RSVP)	17: Game Day 9-12 Needlework Circle 10-12 Crochet Alley & Knit Row 1-3 4-H Expressive Art Club 4-5 (RSVP, ages 9-12)	24:	
FRI	4:	11: 4-H Careers: Law Enforcement 9-12 (RSVP) 4-H Careers: Headshots 10-12 (RSVP) Arts & Crafts Day: Costume Jewelry Angel 9:30-1:30 (RSVP, \$8)	18:	25: Sourdough 101 1-3 (RSVP)	

Event Calendar for April 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

Kentucky Lettuce

SEASON: Early to late spring.

NUTRITION FACTS: Lettuces have 5-15 calories per cup depending on variety.

Lettuce provides vitamins A and C, calcium, and iron.

SELECTION: Choose crisp, brightly colored lettuce with no blemishes, slime, browning or wilted leaves.

STORAGE: Store washed and dried lettuce in a plastic bag in the refrigerator for three to five days, depending on the variety.

Source: www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov



PREPARATION: Wash well and dry before using. Add dressing just before serving to prevent wilting. Lettuce is almost always eaten raw in salads or on sandwiches. Lettuce can also be steamed or added to soups at the end of cooking.

LETTUCE

Kentucky Proud Project

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

March 2012

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.ca.uky.edu/fcs.

COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION
SERVICE



Spring Harvest Salad

5 cups torn spring leaf lettuce

2½ cups spinach leaves

1½ cups sliced strawberries

1 cup fresh blueberries

½ cup thinly sliced green onions

Dressing:
4 teaspoons lemon juice

2½ tablespoons olive oil

1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar

1½ teaspoons Dijon mustard

2 teaspoons Kentucky honey

½ teaspoon salt

¼ cup feta cheese crumbles

½ cup unsalted sliced almonds

1. Combine leaf lettuce and spinach leaves with sliced strawberries, blueberries and green onion in a large salad bowl.

2. Prepare dressing by whisking together the lemon juice, olive oil,

balsamic vinegar, Dijon mustard, honey and salt; **pour** over lettuce mixture and toss to coat.

3. Sprinkle salad with feta cheese and sliced almonds.

4. Serve immediately.

Yield: 8, 1 cup servings.

Nutrition Analysis: 130 calories, 9 g fat, 1.5 g sat fat, 240 mg sodium, 12 g carbohydrates, 3 g fiber, 7 g sugar, 3 g protein.

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

