

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

Finally, the frigid January is over! This last month seemed to last forever thanks to the freezing temperatures, snow, and ice. Hopefully we won't have too see much more of that kind of weather this winter!

January was a pretty crazy month with trainings and programs. I taught my first 3 Private Applicator Trainings. All three programs were successful and all that attended are recertified.

I attended the 4-H Council meeting to meet with area school staff and to discuss Ag Day as well as future Ag in the Classroom opportunities.

Stay tuned for upcoming events in the next few months!

As always, if you have any ideas for programming or programs that you would like to see me do, please contact me. You can call the office at 270-554-9520 or email me directly at gracey.moffitt@uky.edu.

Everyone

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Ag & Natural Resources Events and News for Everyone



UK Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

2025
*Master Gardener
Mini Conference*

Save the date & your spot!

Saturday
February **8** 10:00am

Join us for a day of continuing education!
Topics will be geared for both novice and
experienced Master Gardeners alike. A
registration fee of \$35 will cover the hands-on
workshop, the items they come with and lunch.

Located at the new
Marshall Co. Ext. Office
2081 Mayfield Hwy.
Benton, KY 42025

Space is limited. RSVP by 1/30
Call (270) 527-3285



UK Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

2025
*Master Gardener
Mini Conference
Schedule*

▲ **Welcome** (10:00-10:15am)

▲ **Lectures** (10:25-11:25am)
How to Start a Seed Swap Program
with Miranda Rudolph, Extension ANR Agent
Getting Buggy with It!
With Gracey Moffitt, Extension ANR Agent
Growing Perennial Cut Flowers & Foliage
Dakota Moore, KY Horticulture Council

▲ **Lunch & Networking** (11:35am-12:20pm)

▲ **Hands-on Workshops** (12:30-?):
Pruning
with Matt Chadwick, Extension Agent
*Includes a pair of pruners
Flower Arranging
with Dakota Moore, KY Horticulture Council
*Includes the flower arrangement you create
Working with Clients- Plant Disease
with Kim Leonberger Extension Associate &
Nicole Ward, Extension Pathologist
*Includes a home visit tool kit

*Choose 1
Lecture*

*Choose 1
Workshop*

Space is limited. RSVP by 1/30
Call (270) 527-3285

McCracken County Farm Bureau
Presents:

CLASS OF 2025 SCHOLARSHIPS!

Offered to current high school seniors whose
parents or guardians are Farm Bureau Members.

McCracken
County Farm
Bureau offers
two, \$2,000
scholarships to
local high
school seniors



One \$2,000
scholarship is
given to a high
school senior
pursuing a
diesel
mechanics
degree

**REGISTRATION ENDS:
FEBRUARY 28TH AT 10:59 PM**

For more details about the local and state level
scholarships available and application
information, visit this website:
www.kyfb.com/federation/Programs/youth-development/

For more questions contact Katie Gipson,
McCracken County Farm Bureau Women's Chair:
📞 270-994-6704 ✉️ katie.gipson95@gmail.com

Application






Scholarship
Information



The Marshall & McCracken Extension Services Present:

WOODLAND CARBON MARKETS

Interested in making income
off your woodland property?
Curious about voluntary
carbon markets for
woodlands? Join UK
Extension Professor, Jordan
Shockley, for a free unbiased
informational meeting. Learn
what a carbon market is,
about the status of carbon
markets in the U.S., the
opportunities for Kentucky
woodland owners, practices
required, the value of carbon
credits, legal challenges and
more!





Guest Speaker
Dr. Jordan Shockley,
UK Extension Economist

MON

March 31
2025

TWO CHANCES:
MARSHALL COUNTY AT 5:30PM
MCCRACKEN COUNTY AT 10:00AM

Cooperative Extension Services MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

Livestock Events and News

Placements Below Expectations in January Cattle-on-Feed Report

By: Kenny Burdine, University of Kentucky

Date: 1/27/2025

Cattle Market Notes Weekly

Josh Maples

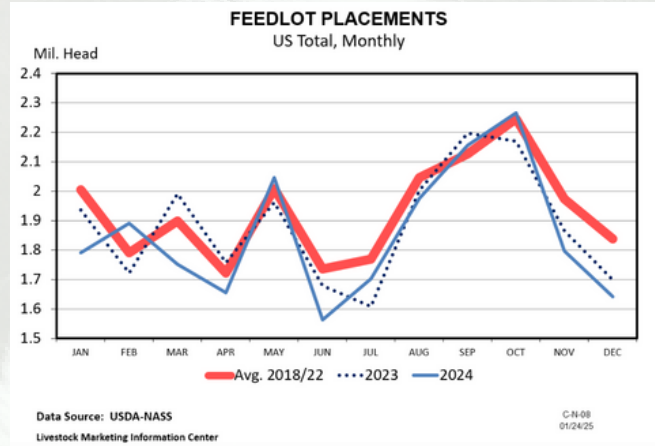


James Mitchell



Kenny Burdine



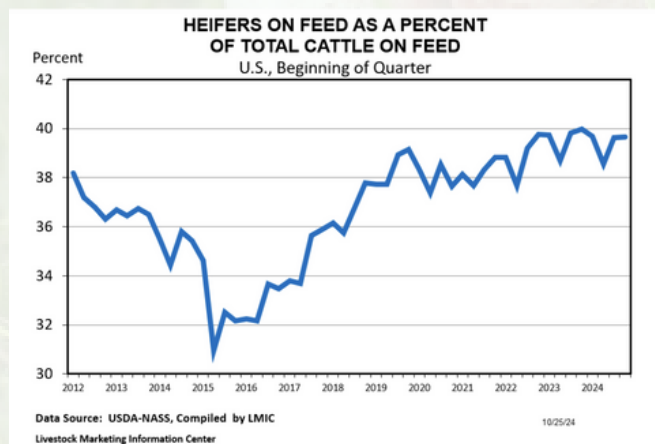
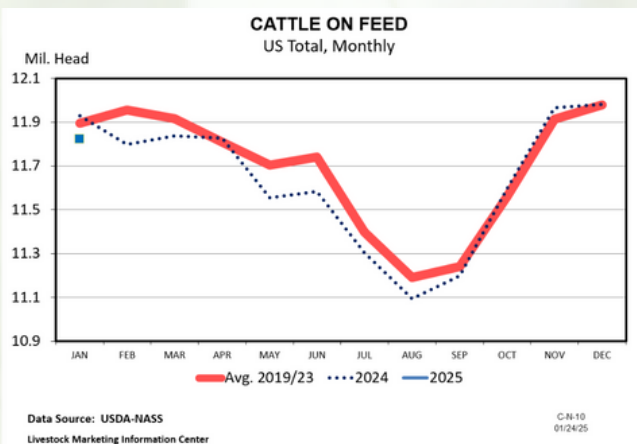


The January Cattle on Feed report was released on Friday afternoon. Total on-feed inventory to start the year was estimated at a little over 11.8 million head, which is down by just under 1% from January of 2024. Despite the fact that feeder cattle supplies have been lower, feedlot inventories ran above 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.

Placements were once again the headliner of the report as they came in below, and outside the range of pre-report estimates. December 2024 placements were estimated at 1.64 million, which was 3.3% below December 2023. On the surface, this seemed logical as December represented a full month of not receiving live cattle imports from Mexico. This also marked the second month in a row with placement levels being more than 3% below year-ago.

Friday's report was also a quarterly cattle-on-feed report, which means it included an estimate of the steer / heifer breakdown. In the absence of a July cattle inventory report, this has been one of the main indicators economists have been tracking for evidence of heifer retention. Heifers accounted for 38.7% of total on-feed inventory on January 1, 2025. While this doesn't speak to retention, it is worth noting that this is about 1% lower than last January and 1% lower than October 2024. So, it does bear watching as we move further into 2025. Again, I think imports from Mexico had some impact here as heifers had represented a higher than usual share of imports prior to the ban in late November.

Last week's cattle on feed report will be overshadowed later this week as USDA-NASS will release their annual inventory estimates on the afternoon of January 31st. While beef cow slaughter was down sharply for 2024, most are still expecting continued decreases in beef cattle numbers at the national level. It will be interesting to see the state-by-state numbers and specifically to look at areas where heifer retention may have already begun. Given the favorable price outlook for calves, I think heifer retention is very possible in 2025 if weather is cooperative. But I also think this will be a relatively slow cow-herd expansion once retention does begin



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

Soil Temperatures Remain Above Freezing Across Kentucky

Source: Dr. Chad Lee,
UK Grain Crops Specialist

Date: 1/17/2025

Soils at 2-inch depths are staying above freezing so far around the state. The Kentucky Mesonet records soil temperatures at certain locations. For the sites we checked, all the soils are still above 32 F. For wheat seeded at proper depths, the roots and growing points are insulated well and should not be damaged. The tillers and leaves above the soil surface have largely been protected by the snow cover. Tillers and leaves exposed to temperatures below 32 F may eventually display some freeze burn, but will not be severely damaged unless exposed to temperatures well below 32 F for several hours. The table we have used suggests that tillers need to be exposed to temperatures at or below 12 F for 2 hours or more before severe damage is expected. However, that table has not always predicted wheat response to freezing temperatures in Kentucky. No accurate assessments of wheat response can be made until the wheat experiences five to seven days of 40 F or more. As snow has melted or will melt in some areas, and the cold snap is back in place for a few days, we will continue to monitor these soil temperatures, air temperatures and will provide an updated report in the near future.

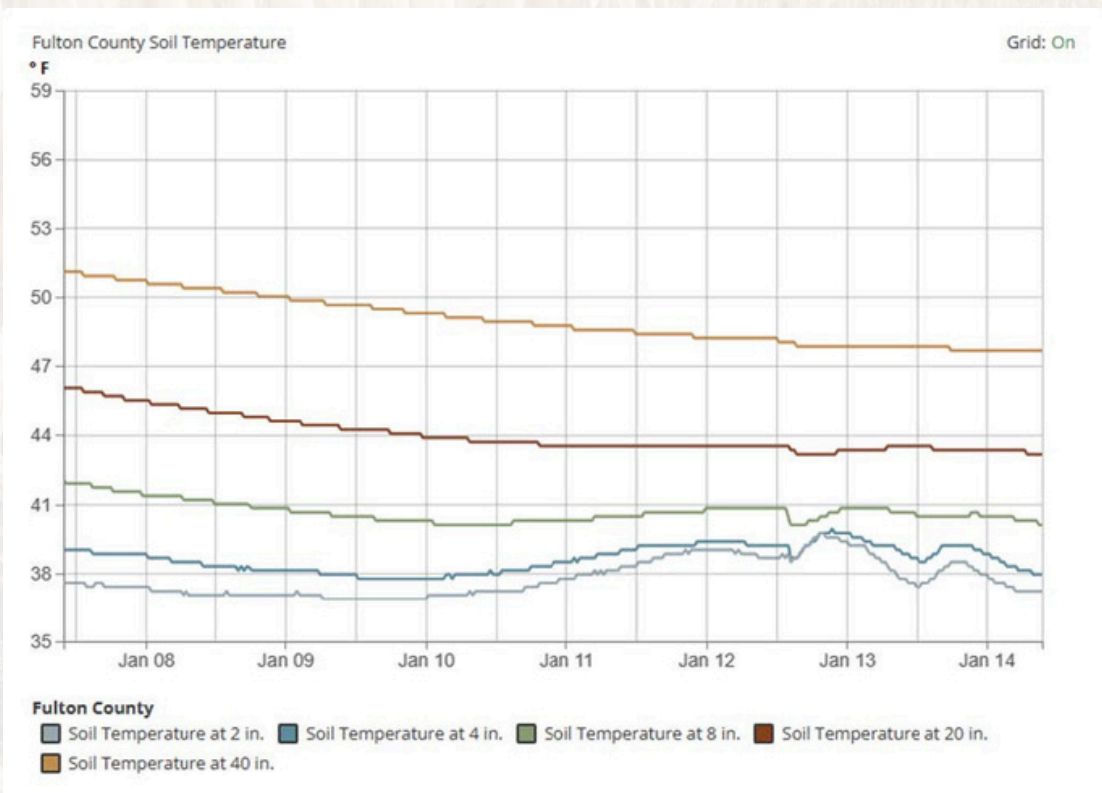


Figure 1. Fulton County (HCKM) Soil Temperatures Jan 8 to Jan 14, 2025. The 2-inch soil depth temperature line is gray. Accessed at: <https://www.kymesonet.org/soil.html?county=HCKM>

On the Kentucky Mesonet website, hover over “Data” and in the dropdown menu select “Soil”. On the left of the screen is another dropdown menu for “Site”. Select the site you want. Not all sites have soil temperatures. Then select “soil temperature”. You can also select the time interval, such as 1 week, 2 weeks, 1 month, 3 months or 6 months.

Row Crops & Forages

2025 WINTER WHEAT MEETING

February 4, 2025

Bruce Convention Center
Hopkinsville, KY 42240

9am-3pm central

Registration 8:30 ct

CCA and Pesticide Credits pending.

- What are We Learning From YEN in KY? - Phil Needham
- Herbicide Residual Application Timing for Ryegrass Control - Dr. Travis Legleiter
- On-farm Grain Fumigation Options - Josh Wilhelm
- Dealing with DON: Management of Fusarium Head Blight and DON in Wheat - Dr. Carl Bradley
- How Nitrogen and Sulfur Fertility Influences Wheat Grain Yield and Protein Content - Dr. Edwin Ritchey
- Current Wheat Crop Update - Dr. Chad Lee
- Wheat Varieties Tolerance to Metribuzin and Opportunities to Improve Italian Ryegrass Management - Dr. Samuel Revolinski
- Overview of Kentucky Wheat Yield Contest 2015-2024 - Dr. Mohammad Shamim



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



2025

Pesticide Private Applicator Trainings

Who needs this certification?
Anyone who sprays "restricted use" pesticides privately (not for a compensation), Those who spray for compensation need a commercial applicators license from the KDA. These certifications are valid for 3 years and expire Dec. 31st of the final year.

There are three chances:

Wednesday, January 22nd 9:00 AM

Tuesday, February 11th 9:00 AM

Thursday, February 27th 5:00 PM

Call to register!

Phone Number
270-554-9520

McCracken County
Cooperative Extension
Office

2025 New Holt Rd,
Paducah, KY 42001

Cannot attend any of these dates? Contact the Extension Office to schedule a one-on-one training.

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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KCHC Kentucky Crop Health Conference

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. CST, Feb. 6, 2025 - National Corvette Museum - Bowling Green, Ky.



Wade Webster
North Dakota State University

Topic: Fueling the Future: Driving Predictive Models for Tar Spot



Alyssa Essman
Ohio State University

Topic: Planting green and the influence of cover crop termination timing on weed management



Justin McMechan
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Topic: Unraveling emerging insect issues in agriculture: Impacts, challenges, and management tactics



Kiersten Wise
University of Kentucky

Topic: Stay one step ahead: Tracking corn diseases in Kentucky



Raul Villanueva
University of Kentucky

Topic: Management of slugs and snails through field efficacy tests in soybeans



Carl Bradley
University of Kentucky

Topic: Research update on Red Crown Rot of Soybean



Travis Legleiter
University of Kentucky

Topic: The fight against Italian Ryegrass in Kentucky: A persistent challenge

Ticket sales close Jan. 30, 2025 - breakfast and lunch included
Conference sign-in begins at 8 a.m. CST

Scan QR Code or visit: <https://kchc2025.eventbrite.com>
Tickets non-refundable after January 30, 2025



Credits: CCA: 4.5 CEUs in IPM;
KY Pesticide Applicator: 3 CEUs for Category 1A & 1 CEU for Category 10

Interested in taking soil samples before this growing season begins?
Contact me via email at gracey.moffitt@uky.edu or by calling the office at 270-554-9520 and we can get you hooked up.

Upcoming Office Events

	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4
MON	3: Cajun Cooking Class 10-12 (RSVP)	10: CharmGello Windmill Quilt Class 11-3:30(RSVP, \$25)	17: District Board Meeting 11-12 (RSVP)	24:
TUE	4: Adult Sewing 9-11 Game Day 9-12 Toolbox: Propagation at Evergreens 5-6 (RSVP) English as a Second Language Classes 6-7:30 (RSVP)	11: Adult Sewing 9-11 Private Applicator Training 9 (RSVP) 4-H Lego Club 4:30-5:30 (RSVP) English as a Second Language Classes 6-7:30 (RSVP)	18: Bags of Love 9:30-1:30 Interracial Women's Group 12-1 (\$5 fee) 4-H Sewing Club 4-6 (RSVP) English as a Second Language Classes 6-7:30 (RSVP)	25: Adult Sewing 9-11 4-H Sewing Club 4-6 (RSVP) English as a Second Language Classes 6-7:30 (RSVP)
WED	5: McCracken County Beautification Board Meeting 10-11 Chair Yoga 10-11 (\$3)	12: Tech Class: Facebook Advanced 10-11 (RSVP) Chair Yoga 10-11 (\$3)	19: Scrapbooking 9-3 Chair Yoga 10-11 (\$3 at the door)	26: Chair Yoga 10-11 (\$3 at the door) Private Applicator Training 9 (RSVP)
THURS	6: Needlework Circle 10-12 Crochet Alley & Knit Row 1-3 4-H Chess Club 5-7	13:	20: Game Day 9-12 Needlework Circle 10-12 Crochet Alley & Knit Row 1-3	27: King Cake Class 9-2 (FULL) Private Applicator Training 5 (RSVP) 4-H Video Game Club 4:30-5:30 (RSVP)
FRI	7:	14: Arts & Crafts Day: Crystal Bead Wire Tree 9:30-1:30 (RSVP, \$6) 	21:	28: Side Seam Applique 1-4 (RSVP)

Event Calendar for February 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



Dijon Chicken Asparagus Roll Ups

3 tablespoons Dijon mustard	2 teaspoons black pepper	4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves (about 5 ounces each)
½ cup low fat mayonnaise	½ teaspoon salt	4 slices skimmed mozzarella cheese
1 lemon, juiced (approximately 3 tablespoons)	16 spears fresh asparagus, trimmed	1 cup panko bread crumbs

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. **Grease** an 11-by-7-inch baking dish. In a bowl, **mix** together the mustard, mayonnaise, lemon juice, thyme, salt and pepper; set aside. **Place** asparagus in a microwave safe dish and **microwave** on high 1-1½ minutes. **Place** chicken breasts between two sheets of heavy plastic (a re-sealable freezer bag works well) on a firm surface. **Pound** the chicken breasts with the smooth side of a meat mallet to thickness of ¼ inch. **Place** one slice of cheese and four asparagus spears on each breast. Tightly **roll** the chicken breasts around the asparagus

and cheese. **Place** each, seam side down, in the prepared baking dish. **Apply** a coating of the mustard mixture to each chicken breast and **sprinkle** each with the panko crumbs, **pressing** the crumbs into the chicken to secure. **Bake** 35 minutes or until the chicken temperature is 165 degrees F. For crisper chicken, **place** roll-ups under the broiler for 1-2 minutes on high.

Yield: 4 servings

Nutritional Analysis:

370 calories, 10 g fat, 3.5 g saturated fat, 115 mg cholesterol, 1060 mg sodium, 2 g fiber, 2 g sugars, 41 g protein.

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 tenderest stalks are apple green in color with purple-tinged tips.

STORAGE: Fresh asparagus will keep 1 week or more in

the refrigerator. Store upright with cut ends in water or with cut ends wrapped in wet paper towels in a plastic bag.

PREPARATION: One pound of asparagus will yield 4 one-half cup servings, about six 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.

KENTUCKY ASPARAGUS

Kentucky Proud Project
County Extension Agents for Family and Consumer Sciences
University of Kentucky, Dietetics and Human Nutrition students
March 2017

Source: www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov

Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers market, or roadside stand.
<http://plateitup.ca.uky.edu>



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