

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

It is hard to believe that October is already over! Harvest has been in full swing and so have my trainings and meetings. October 1st was my one-year anniversary as the ANR agent and I still couldn't be happier about being here serving McCracken County!

Harvest Festival 2024 planning is underway! Due to unforeseen disease and insect pressure, I had to harvest all of my pumpkins prior to Harvest fest, but we will definitely have plenty to go around (as pictured above)! I partnered with Graves, Calloway, Marshall, and Livingston counties to host a **Bull Value Assessment Program** at the Marshall County Extension Office and it was a success! This program was a 2-night event where the producers learned about EPDs which are crucial when selecting a bull and they then put their knowledge to the test at a live bull auction simulation (as pictured above)!

Spooky STEM Night at Clark Elementary was a hit! Sr. NEP Assistant Stephanie Caldwell and I had a dirt and germ booth where the students learned about why it is so important to wash their hands, especially when playing in the dirt (as pictured above).

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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

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University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.

Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

Cooperative Extension Service

JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL
MCCRACKEN COUNTY
HOMEMAKERS
HOLIDAY BAZAAR

2
NOVEMBER

8-3

**VENDORS
FOOD
SHOPPING**

2025 NEW HOLT RD PADUCAH, KY
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 270-554-9520

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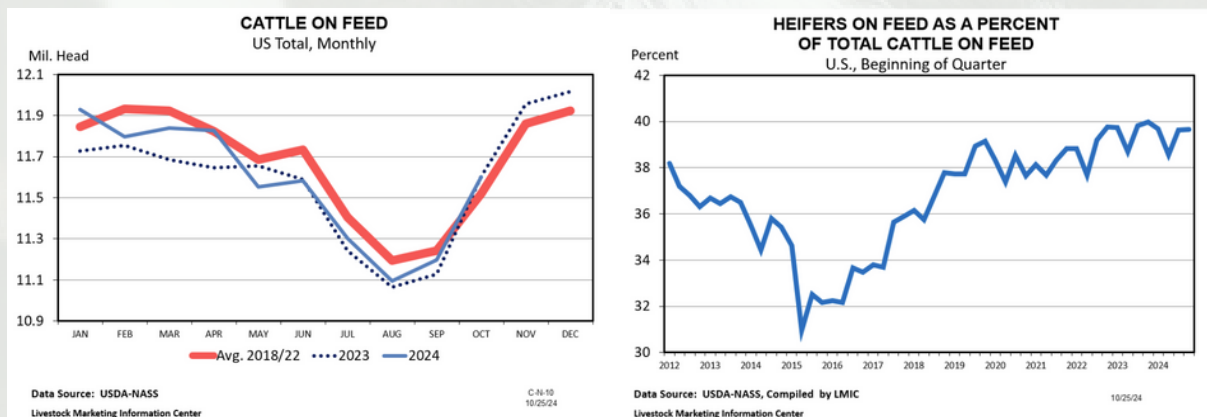
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Livestock Events and News

On-feed Inventory Remains Steady with No Sign of Significant Heifer Retention

By: Kenny Burdine,
University of Kentucky
Date: 10/25/2024



Largely in line with expectations, Friday's Cattle-on-Feed report estimated October 1 feedlot inventories virtually unchanged from last year. On-feed numbers continue to run very close to 2023 levels despite the fact that the cowherd and calf crop are smaller. The combination of high cattle values and lower feed prices continue to encourage longer feeding periods. Increased live cattle imports are also a contributing factor and will be discussed in a bit more detail later.

September placements came in a bit higher than expected, running 1.9% below the same month last year. While placements have bounced around a lot this year, they have tended to exceed expectations. Even aggregating over the last six months (April through September) placements are down less than 1% from 2023. September fed cattle marketings were higher, coming in at 2% above last year.

Last week's report was also a quarterly one, which included a steer / heifer breakdown. In the absence of a July cattle inventory report, this has been one of the main indicators that economists have been watching for evidence of heifer retention. Heifers have accounted for more than 38% of total on-feed inventory since July of 2018. During expansionary periods, this share tends to be in the low-mid 30% range. The estimate for October 1, 2024, came in at 39.7%, which was actually up a tick from July (39.6%).

I wanted to also discuss the potential impact increased live cattle imports may be having on the share of heifers on feed in the US. Through the first eight months of 2024, a sharp increase has been seen in the number females coming into the US. In addition to tight domestic supplies and high prices, drought in Northern Mexico has also been a contributing factor. While there has also been an increase in the number of males entering the US, that has been much less significant. If I simply subtract the net increases for both steers and heifers thus far in 2024, the heifer percentage would decrease to 38.9%. In other words, if I hold feeder steer and heifer cattle imports steady from last year, the number of heifers on feed as a percent of total on-feed inventory would drop by about 0.8%.

I readily admit this is a crude calculation that assumes all these cattle were placed on feed, and all were all still on feed October 1st. But lighter cattle that did not go straight to feed were likely offset by similar cattle in late 2023 that may be on feed now. Plus, a lot of Mexican feeder cattle come into the US at light weights, which tends to mean longer feeding periods. Regardless, the primary point to this discussion is that while a proportionally large number of female feeders are entering the US in 2024, the impact on the share of heifers on feed in the US is likely less than 1%. This is something worth watching going forward but it does not change the fact there does not appear to be substantial heifer retention this fall.

Cattle Market Notes Weekly

Josh Maples



MISSISSIPPI STATE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION

James Mitchell



UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION

Kenny Burdine



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,
FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

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

To Store or Not to Store? Old Crop Exit Strategies

Source: Grant Gardener (University of Kentucky), Ryan Loy (University of Arkansas)

Date: 10/15/24

The June Grain Stocks report indicated 37% more corn and 44% more soybeans stored on-farm than last year, indicating that many producers still have grain in storage (Maples, 2024). The September Grain Stocks report indicates that 75% of the on-farm grain stocks from June were sold; however, stocks are still up 29% for Corn and 54% for soybeans compared to the September 2024 report. These stocks carry over from last year and are likely still impacting local prices. Producers may still be determining whether to exit old crop positions or hold until prices increase. In this article, I discuss three facets of this decision: cutting losses (e.g. selling now), storage with an operating loan, and storage with cash flow using a hypothetical situation.

Assume that farmer Ethan is deciding what to do with 100,000 bushels of corn, and the cash price is currently \$4.00. He could sell, collect \$400,000 today, and use that cash to cover expenses in other areas of the operation. Or, he could also store those bushels on-farm using an operating loan or cash flow (working capital).

Using an operating loan, Ethan must continue to utilize \$400,000 (100,000 bushels × \$4.00) at a 9% interest (current rates). As prices will typically be lower at harvest due to new crop supplies, he is prepared to sell the grain in February, expecting prices to rise (6 months). Ethan's interest expense on the loan would come out to \$18,000 ($\$400,000 \times 0.09 \times 6/12$). Dividing that by 100,000 bushels, his per bushel expense is \$0.18 (\$0.03/bushel/month), meaning prices would need to increase to at least \$4.18 to pay the interest-only portion of the storage expense. Ethan would also incur forgone interest expense by storing, which is the opportunity cost of a delayed sale. Forgone interest amounts to \$0.09/bu (\$0.015/bu/mo) in this case, which is calculated using the current CD rate of 4.5% ($\$400,000 \times 0.045 \times 6/12$). If Ethan were to account for their delayed sale (\$0.09/bu) and the interest expense of storage (\$0.18/bu), corn prices would need to increase to at least \$4.27 to pay both the direct interest expense and the opportunity cost of storing.

The final option is for Farmer Ethan to fund some of the storage using cash. As Ethan funds more of the loan using his funds, interest costs decline. If he funds all the storage with cash, his interest expense is \$0.00. However, he would still incur the forgone interest expense of \$0.09/bu. The downfall of this method is that Farmer Ethan now has less cash on hand to fund other areas of his operation.

According to farmer Ethan's hypothetical, cutting losses or storing through harvest could be viable options for producers sitting on old crops; however, we do not know how 2024/25 marketing year prices will unfold. Futures prices and basis will likely remain low as we move through harvest. We have experienced price spikes lately due to weather pressure in Brazil; however, this is likely to curtail as Brazil moves into their monsoon season. The choice to store or sell is highly dependent on the operation. Sometimes, making sales is the best decision because it moves focus to the next marketing year, especially if an operation does not have enough storage to hold old crop stocks and new crop supplies.

In conclusion, it is worth noting that this analysis only looks at interest expenses and touches on forgone interest (opportunity cost of storage). It does not account for other expenses that occur with storage, such as quality losses, grain handling, and capital recovery. Interest rates may also improve as the Federal Reserve lowered the federal funds rate by half a percentage point in September and is expected to drop the rate another quarter percentage point in November (CME, 2024). Finally, prices may not increase by February, and all storage could result in a loss. All grain storage calculations and further discussion of interest rate impacts on storage costs are explained in Gardner (2023).

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 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

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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, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

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



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



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



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



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		4:	11: District Board Meeting 11 (RSVP)	18: Four Rivers 4-H Homeschool and Cloverbuds Clubs 2-3	25: Adult Embroidery Class 9-3
TUE		5: 	12: Adult Sewing 9-11 4-H Amateur Radio Club 5 (RSVP, 12+)	19: Bags of Love 9:30-1:30 Laugh and Learn 11-12 (at Library) Interracial Women's Group 12-1 (\$5)	26: Adult Sewing 9-11 4-H Amateur Radio Club 5 (RSVP, 12+)
WED		6: McCracken Co Beautification Board Meeting 10-11:30 Global Kitchen Experience: Baklava 5:30 (FULL) Holiday Wreath Making 5-6	13: Tech Class: Spreadsheets Level 1 Google Docs/Excel 10-11 Art Engines: Stomp Chi with Lady Van Tiger 1-3	20: Scrapbooking 9-3	27:
THURS		7: Needlework Circle 10-12 Crochet Alley & Knit Row 1-3 4-H Chess Club 5-7 4-H Poultry Club Recruitment Night 6:30	14:	21: Game Day 9-12 Needlework Circle 10-12 Crochet Alley & Knit Row 1-3 4-H Chess Club 5-7	28: 
FRI	1:	8: 2-Day Holiday Scrapbooking 9-10 & 9-5 (PSVP, \$50) Arts & Crafts Day: Christmas Tree Ornament 9:30 (RSVP, \$6 fee)	15: Harvest Festival 3:30-5:30	22:	29: 

Event Calendar for November 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



Venison Steak



This institution is an equal opportunity provider. This material was funded by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program — SNAP.



USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program



University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Cooperative Extension Service

Venison Steak

- 2 pounds round venison steak
- ½ cup flour
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 4 ounces fresh mushrooms, if desired
- 3 carrots, diced
- 1 small onion, sliced
- 1 cup low-sodium beef broth

Cut steak into eight 4-ounce servings. Mix flour, salt, pepper, and garlic powder and coat steak with flour mixture. Brown in oil on each side. Layer steak in slow cooker. Add mushrooms, carrots, and onion. Pour beef broth over steak. Cover and cook on low 8 to 10 hours.

Variation: Rabbit or squirrel can be substituted for venison.

Yield: 8 servings

Adapted from Venison Recipe Collection, Compiled by Becky Nash, Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences

Nutrition Facts

8 servings per container
Serving size 4 ounces (218g)

Amount per serving
Calories 220

	% Daily Value*
Total Fat 7g	9%
Saturated Fat 1.5g	8%
Trans Fat 0g	
Cholesterol 95mg	32%
Sodium 310mg	13%
Total Carbohydrate 11g	4%
Dietary Fiber 2g	7%
Total Sugars 3g	
Includes 0g Added Sugars	0%
Protein 28g	
Vitamin D 4mcg	20%
Calcium 23mg	2%
Iron 4mg	20%
Potassium 538mg	10%

* The % Daily Value (DV) tells you how much a nutrient in a serving of food contributes to a daily diet. 2,000 calories a day is used for general nutrition advice.