

MCCRACKEN AG NEWS



Meet the ANR Agent

Hello everybody! In case we haven't met, my name is Gracey Moffitt and I am the 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 September! August came and went quickly with school back in session and it is hard to believe that harvest season is already here! August was slower month in terms of trainings and events thanks to school starting back and it being the weird lull time with various diseases and insects.

August is home to the wonderful **Kentucky State Fair**. This year, my state assignment as an agent was working the Swine Show during the last week of fair. It made for a long week, but I had a great time with some amazing kids and their pigs (as pictured above).

During the last week of the month, I was able to host a **CAIP Info Night** for those interested in applying for CAIP/YAIP funds during this program year. I worked with the Soil Conservation District Board Administrator and a representative from the Kentucky Office of Ag Policy that is over the CAIP/YAIP program. If interested in applying, come by my office, the soil conservation office, or by looking at the extension website for the application. Applications are due by 9/19/25 before 4:30pm.

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



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Ag & Natural Resources Events and News for Everyone

West Kentucky Turf Field Day

September 3rd, 2025
11:00-2:00pm

Topics:

- Live cool season planting demo
- Warm season sod plots tours
- Fertilizers & pests
- Weed identification & Much More!

Certification Hours

- Commercial Pesticide
- Certified Crop Advisor
- Extension Agent In-service
- Master Gardener CE

See back for details.

Lunch Provided

Join us for a free lunch!

RSVP Required!
☎ 270-527-3285

Marshall County Cooperative
Extension Service
2081 Mayfield Hwy.
Benton, KY 42025



Cooperative Extension Service
MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT
University of Kentucky
2025-2026

Cooperative Extension Service

An Equal Opportunity Organization



September 8th & 11th
5:00-7:00 PM
McCracken County
Cooperative Extension
Office

DISASTERS: BEING PREPARED BEFORE AND AFTER THE STORM

Join us for 2 nights filled with disaster preparedness and prevention for homeowners and families. We will dive into topics related to all-hazards prevention and response for people and their property. Both sessions are not required but encouraged.

Scan the barcode(s) below to register for one or both nights!



Program Topics:

Monday, September 8th:

- Basic Disasters and General Awareness
- Disaster Preparedness: Make a Plan, Make a Kit
- Fire Safety and Prevention

Thursday, September 11th:

- Post Disaster Safety and Recovery
- Home Property and Animal Recon
- Mental Health and Situational Awareness

The 1st 50 people will receive a Disaster Preparedness Starter Kit!

2025 New Holt Rd. Paducah, KY 42001

270-554-9520

CAIP/YAIP APPLICATIONS ARE LIVE!

Stop by the extension office or by looking on our website for the CAIP and YAIP 2025 Applications. DUE SEPT. 19th AT 4:30PM to me or Amanda at the Soil Conservation District.

Livestock Events and News

Cattle Market Responds to Human Case of New World Screwworm

By: Kenny Burdine, University of Kentucky

Date: 8/25/2025

As I write this article for Cattle Market Notes Weekly on August 25th, the cattle market is absorbing a US case of New World Screwworm (NWS). It appears that a human case of NWS was confirmed earlier this month in Maryland and was the result of someone traveling to Central America. At this point, there has not been a confirmed animal case, but cattle markets have responded to the news. The CME® October live cattle futures contract ended the day down \$0.90 per cwt from Friday. Fall CME® feeder cattle futures prices were down by less than \$1.50 per cwt. Both tested lower levels earlier in the day but settled at much smaller decreases by the afternoon.

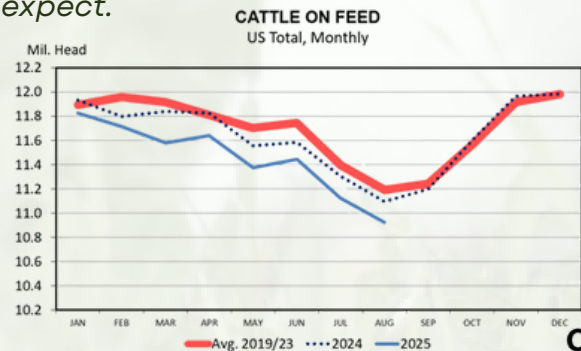
I think the main reason why the market response was limited is that there really isn't a fundamental market implication of this announcement based on current information. Since this was a human case, and NWS has not yet been found in livestock, there is no expected supply impact. A demand response also seems unlikely, although both of those things could change if more is learned in the coming days. The announcement does serve as a clear reminder that NWS is a threat to the livestock sector and animal health officials will continue to monitor the herd and release sterile male flies in Mexico.

At the same time the cattle markets were processing NWS, they were also processing a Cattle-on-Feed report that was slightly bearish. The August Cattle-on-Feed report was released on Friday August 22nd. Total on-feed inventory for August 1 was estimated to be 11.1 million head, which was a little larger than the average of pre-report estimates. Marketings came in at 94.3% of last year, which was just a tick higher than expected.

The biggest deviation from pre-report estimates was seen in July placements, which were down 7.2% from July 2024. While this was a smaller decrease than expected, it was within the range of pre-report estimates. In truth, placements have been difficult to predict since late last year when Mexican feeder cattle imports were first halted. Over the last three months (May-July), feedlot placements have been down by 7.3%, and they are down 5.2% year-to-date.

While I don't want to make light of the drop in cattle futures on Monday, I think it must be viewed through the lens of Friday's cattle-on-feed report and the NWS news. Neither were what the industry would like to have heard, but the market response was pretty limited. We have recently seen larger single-day market drops on much less new information, and I think today's trading speaks to how strong these cattle market fundamentals are.

For more information about New World Screwworm, feel free to contact me and I am more than happy to share more information with you. This topic is rather graphic for most viewers. This New World Screwworm IS NOT in Kentucky yet, so please don't freak out - but it doesn't hurt to educate yourself on what you can expect.



Cattle Market Notes Weekly

Data Source: USDA-NASS
Livestock Marketing Information Center

© 9/10/25
09/22/25

Josh Maples



James Mitchell



Kenny Burdine



Livestock

2025 Master Cattlemen Program



Session 1

Sept. 16,23,30

- Management Skills-
- Genetics-
- Facilities and Animal Behavior-
- Reproduction and Herd Health-



Session 2

Oct. 14,21,28 & Nov. 4th

- End Product-
- Forages-
- Marketing and Profitability-
- Environmental Stewardship-



Location: Graves County Ext. Office
4200 US-45,
Mayfield, KY 42066

Time: 5:00-5:30 Dinner
5:30PM- Meeting

Cost: \$100/Individual
+\$50- for each additional member
of the same operation.

Free- Next-Generation (14-22)

All Sessions Required For Certification



Scan Here



UK Cooperative
Extension Service

Don't forget to sign up for the 2025 Purchase Area Master Cattlemen Program!

If interested in signing up, you can use the QR Code or you can contact me for the registration link. For any questions email me at gracey.moffitt@uky.edu.

Row Crops & Forages

Events and News

Corn is Not Making your Days more Humid

Date: 8/15/2025

Source: Chad Lee, UK Extension Agronomist

(This article originally appeared on the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton website.)

When it gets very hot and very humid, people see the fields of tall, green corn and point the finger at these fields. Corn is not making your days more humid unless you are walking in corn fields all day.

The very short answer is that corn will transpire around 4,000 to a peak of 8,000 gallons of water per acre per day. But, in these current conditions, there is about 160,000 gallons of water in the air already. So, any water coming from a field of corn is negligible to the total amount of water in the air.

Corn, like all plants, transpires water and oxygen to help maintain plant functions. Once the corn plant leaves cover the rows and intercept most of the sunlight, most water loss from the cornfield comes from the transpiration. Water loss from transpiration is influenced by water availability in the soil, water amount in the plant, relative humidity (which is water in the air), air temperature, cloud cover and windspeed.

If the relative humidity (RH) is high, then transpiration (water loss) from the plants is low. Some estimates in Nebraska place peak water loss from a cornfield at about 0.33 inches per acre per day. That equals 8,960 gallons of water per acre per acre per day for about 20 days. Other estimates east of the Missouri River suggest corn will transpire about 4,000 gallons per acre per day. If RH is 50%, and corn plants are at maximum water demand, corn in the region likely loses closer to the 5,000 gallons per day.

While that is a large amount of water for any household to use in a day, it is very small number compared with what is in the air already.

We can calculate the water in the air by calculating the weight of dry air above one acre, using a psychrometric calculator, and using 86 F and 50% RH at our elevation. With these parameters in the Bluegrass Region of Kentucky there is about 0.0136 pound of water (H₂O) per pound of dry air. That comes to about 160,000 gallons of water above one acre, whether that acre is corn, a football field, or houses in town. See the resources at the end of this publication to double check this math and work out scenarios where you live.

To add more perspective to the volumes of water being discussed, 1-inch of rainfall is 27,184 gallons per acre. The Kentucky Mesonet at Spindletop Farm in Lexington is at 3.1 inches of rainfall for July, which is 84,270 gallons of water per acre that has fallen to soil. If the atmosphere is holding 160,000 gallons of water at 50% RH and 86 degrees Fahrenheit, and all that water decided to fall to earth in a day, that is equivalent to about 5.9 inches of rainfall per acre.

An acre of corn could remove 35,000 pounds of carbon dioxide (CO₂) per acre and release about 25,000 pounds of oxygen (O₂) per acre over the growing season.

If someone walks into a cornfield, that corn will block airflow. As that corn transpires, a person will perspire. Inside of that cornfield, it will feel more humid. But, outside of the cornfield in this region of the country, it is unlikely that corn (or soybeans, sudangrass, or other crops fully closing the rows) will transpire enough water to dramatically affect the humidity in the neighborhoods, towns, and cities.

Acknowledgements

Corn agronomist colleagues Dan Quinn, Alex Lindsey and Osler Orteiz helped with the thought processes and calculations. A larger conversation was held among corn agronomists across the country about this topic.

Row Crops & Forages

Did you know that we offer hay testing?

Here at the McCracken County Extension Office, as the ANR agent I have the ability to work with producers on sampling their hay and sending it off to the DairyOne Forage Lab. If you're interested, feel free to call the office or email me for more info.

270-554-9520 gracey.moffitt@uky.edu

Are you noticing issues in your field and not sure what is going on?

If so, contact me! I am more than happy to come out and scout your field with you or to help you figure out what you have got going on.

Interested in receiving the Kentucky Field Crops Newsletter?

Use the barcode to sign up. If you have any issues or would like access to it, contact me and I would be happy to help you get set up.



FREE SOIL SAMPLES FOR MCCRACKEN COUNTY RESIDENTS

Did you know that as a McCracken County resident that you can get up to 5 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	1. 	8: Extension District Board Meeting 11-12 (RSVP) Disasters: Being Prepared Before the Storm 5-7 (RSVP)	15: District Board Meeting 11-12 (RSVP)	22:	29: CharmGello Genesis Quilt Day 2, 10-4 (RSVP, \$25 for 2-day class)
TUE	2. Pathways to Sewing 9-11 Game Day 9-12 Big Blue Book Club Registration Opens Lawn Management 5-6 (RSVP)	9: Pathways to Sewing 9-11	16: Bags of Love 9:30-1:30 Laugh and Learn 11-12 (Library) Master Cattleman Series: Night 1 5:00-8:30 (RSVP, \$100 one-time fee)	23: Pathways to Sewing 9-11 Master Cattleman Series: Night 2 5:00-8:30 (RSVP, \$100 one-time fee)	30: Master Cattleman Series: Night 3 5:00-8:30 (RSVP, \$100 one-time fee)
WED	3. Chair Yoga 10-11 (\$3) Pickle This 10-12 or 4-6 (RSVP) McCracken County Civic Beautification Board 10-11 West Kentucky Turf Field Day 11-2 (RSVP, at Marshal Co. CES)	10: Chair Yoga 10-11 (\$3) Tech Class: AI Basics 11-12 (RSVP)	17: Scrapbooking 9-3 Chair Yoga 10-11 (\$3)	24: Chair Yoga 10-11 (\$3)	
THURS	4. Needlework Circle 10-12 Crochet Alley & Knit Row 1-3 4-H Rocket Club Orientation Night 5	11: Creative Writers Critique Group 11-1 (RSVP) Disasters: Being Prepared for After the Storm 5-7 (RSVP)	18: Game Day 9-12 Needlework Circle 10-12 Crochet Alley & Knit Row 1-3	25: Creative Writers Critique Group 11-1 (RSVP)	
FRI	5:	12: Arts and Crafts: faux Stained Glass Project 9:30-12 (RSVP, \$6)	19: Lettuce Show 10-11:30 or 2-3:30 (RSVP)	26: CharmGello Genesis Quilt Day 1, 10-4 (RSVP, \$25 for 2-day class)	

Event Calendar for September 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

Air Fried Okra Tots with Tangy Dipping Sauce

- 12 ounces okra stalks
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons salt-free seasoning

Tangy Dipping Sauce:

- 1 cup plain low-fat yogurt
- 3 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon dried parsley
- 2 teaspoons dried dill
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

Wash hands with warm water and soap, **scrubbing** for at least 20 seconds. **Cut** the ends off the okra. **Cut** the okra into 2-inch (tater tot sized) chunks. In a large bowl, **place** the cut okra, olive oil, and seasoning. **Toss** to coat. **Add** to the basket of your air fryer in a single layer. Depending on the size of your air fryer, you may need to cook in batches so the okra is in a single layer, which allows air to circulate and okra to be crispy. **Cook** at 350 degrees F for 10 minutes or until crispy, tossing halfway through. While the okra cooks, **prepare** the sauce by **mixing** all of the ingredients in a small bowl. **Refrigerate** the sauce until ready to serve. **Serve** okra tots with tangy dipping sauce. **Store** leftovers in the refrigerator within two hours.

Yield: 5 servings. **Serving Size:** 1/5 of recipe. **Nutrition Analysis for Okra Tots with Tangy Dipping Sauce:** 170 calories, 13g total fat, 2.5g saturated fat, 10mg cholesterol, 330mg sodium, 14g total carbohydrate, 2g fiber, 4g total sugars, 0g added sugars, 4g protein, 0% DV vitamin D, 10% DV calcium, 6% DV iron, 8% DV potassium. **Nutrition Analysis for Okra Tots (no sauce):** 70 calories, 6g total fat, 1g saturated fat, 0mg cholesterol, 0mg sodium, 10g total carbohydrate, 2g fiber, 1g total sugars, 0g added sugars, 1g protein, 0% DV vitamin D, 4% DV calcium, 0% DV iron, 6% DV potassium.



Kentucky Okra

SEASON: June through September

NUTRITION FACTS: Okra is a good source of Vitamin C, folic acid, and fiber. Fiber helps lower cholesterol which reduces the risk of heart disease.

SELECTION: Select small, crisp, tender pods, 2 to 4 inches long. Pods should be free from blemishes. Pods that have passed their prime will have a dull, dry appearance, contain coarse fibers, and are stringy when opened.

STORAGE: Refrigerate unwashed, dry okra pods in the vegetable crisper, loosely wrapped in perforated plastic bags. Okra will only keep 2 to 3 days before it starts to deteriorate.

PREPARATION:

Wash okra pods before cooking. Cut off stem end, leaving small pods whole. Cut large pods in 1/2-inch slices.

Okra exudes a unique juice that will thicken soups and stews. The taste complements tomatoes, onions, corn, and fish stock.

FREEZING:

The best method for long-term storage is freezing. Okra must be blanched before freezing to hold the flavor and quality. It will keep in the freezer for one year.

Kentucky Proud Project

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

Source: FruitsAndVeggies.org

July 2022

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



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