

The Mason County mAGazine



A Monthly Agricultural Newsletter



IN THIS ISSUE:

Ag Week Coloring Contest

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Shared Use Equipment

Timely Tips

Henbit vs. Deadnettle

Pasture Weeds

Managing Spring Pastures

Upcoming Programs

Important Dates

A NOTE FROM YOUR AGENT

Hello all,

April is here! It's one of my favorite months of the year—celebrating Easter with family, enjoying the beautiful weather, and watching spring calves hit the ground. There's so much to appreciate this season, and I hope you take a moment to enjoy it before the busyness picks up!

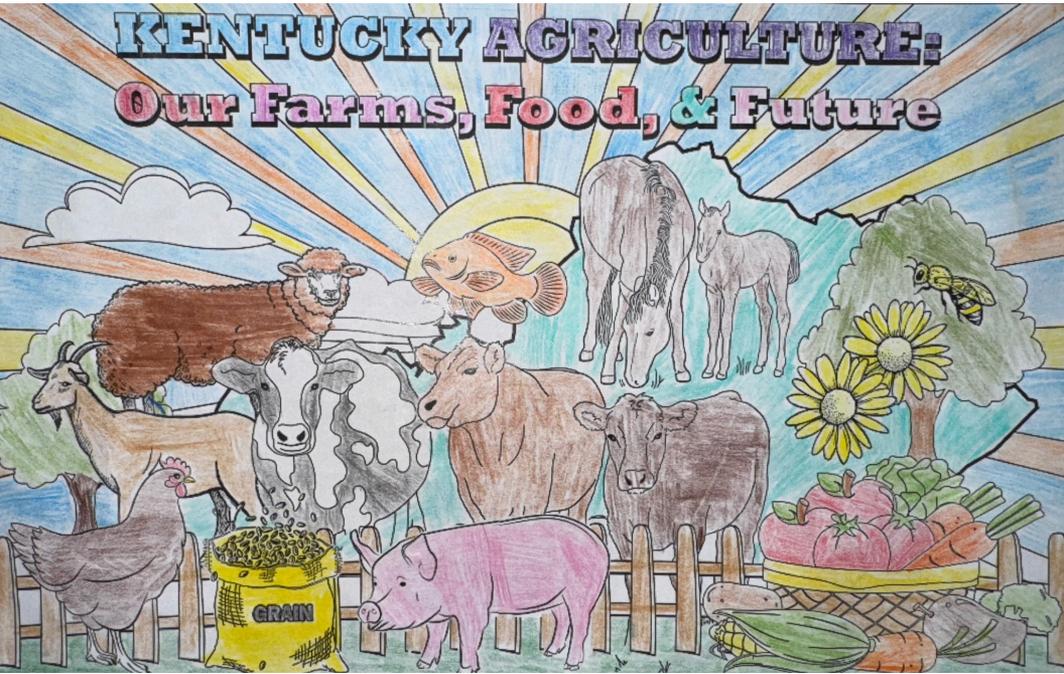
In this month's newsletter, you'll find details on CAIP education programs, insightful publications, and the winner of our Ag Literacy Week Coloring Contest!

If there's anything I can do to support you, please don't hesitate to reach out. I'm here for you and happy to assist however I can.

Audrey Wright
Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent
Mason County Extension

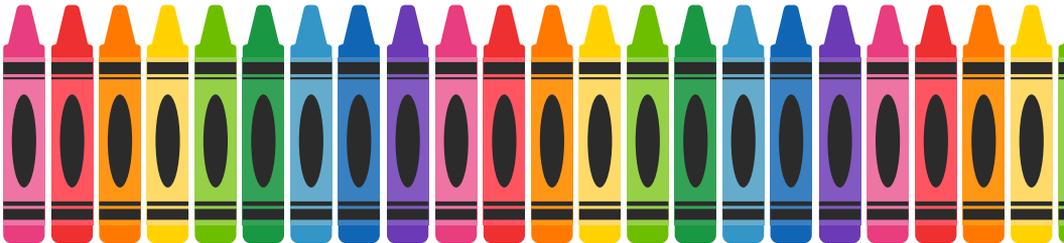


In honor of Ag Literacy Week that was March 17-21st, the 4th graders at Mason County Intermediate School participated in a coloring contest about Kentucky Agriculture!



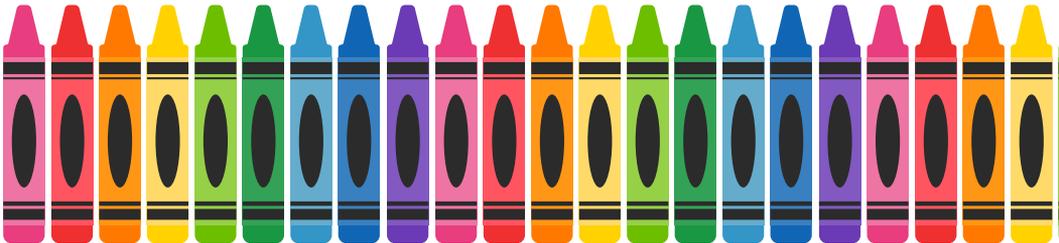
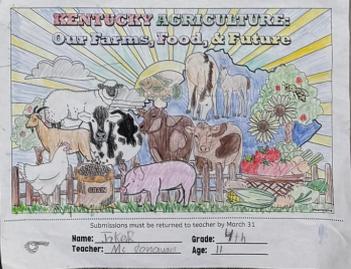
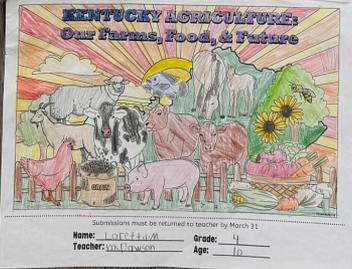
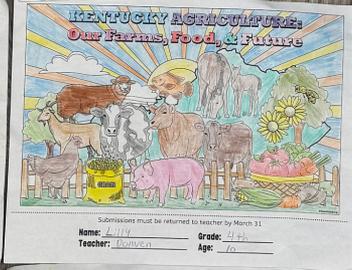
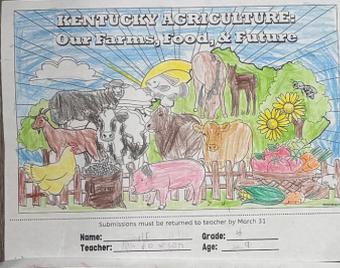
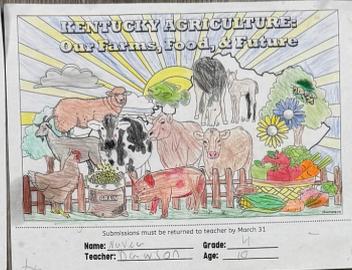
The winner of the Ag Literacy Coloring Contest is:

LILY WHITE
Congratulations!



AG LITERACY WEEK COLORING CONTEST WINNER

Thank you to all the students who participated in the coloring contest!



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 Find us on
Facebook



Mason Co. Conservation District

SHARED-USE

EQUIPMENT



GREAT PLAINS 1006NT DRILL



INLINE WRAPPER HYBRID X

***LIME SPREADER IS UNAVAILABLE

For rental information, contact the district office (606)759-5570 Ext. 3

Spring Calving Herd

- Observe spring-calving cows closely. Check cows at least twice daily and first-calf heifers more frequently than that. Be ready to assist those not making progress after 1 to 2 hours of hard labor. Chilled calves should be dried and warmed as soon as possible.
- See that each calf gets colostrum within an hour of birth or administer colostrum (or a commercial colostrum replacement) with an esophageal feeder, if needed.
- Identify calves with ear tags and/or tattoos while calves are young and easy to handle and record birthdate and Dam ID. Commercial male calves should be castrated and implanted as soon as possible. Registered calves should be weighed in the first 24 hours.
- Separate cows that have calved and increase their feed. Energy supplementation to cows receiving hay is necessary to prepare them for rebreeding. For example, a 1250 lb cow giving 25 lb/day of milk would need about 25 lb of fescue hay and 5 lb of concentrate daily to maintain condition. If you need to go from a condition score of 4 to 5, you will need to add about 2 more lb of concentrate. Cows must be in good condition to conceive early in the upcoming breeding season.
- Watch for calf scours! If scours become a problem, move cows that have not calved to a clean pasture. Be prepared to give fluids to scouring calves that become dehydrated. Consult your veterinarian for advice and send fecal samples to diagnostic lab to determine which drug therapy will be most effective. Try to avoid feeding hay in excessively muddy areas to avoid contamination of the dams' udders.
- Continue grass tetany prevention. Be sure that the mineral mix contains high levels (~15%) of magnesium and that cows consume adequate amounts. You can feed the UK Beef IRM High Magnesium mineral.
- Plan to vaccinate calves for clostridial diseases (Blackleg, Malignant Edema) as soon as possible. You might choose to do this at the prebreeding working in late April or early May.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

- Obtain yearling measurements on bulls and heifers this month (weight, height, pelvic area, scrotal circumference, ultrasound data, etc.) if needed for special sales. Heifers should be on target to be cycling by the start of the breeding season.
- Prepare bulls for the breeding season. Increase feed if necessary to have bulls in adequate condition for breeding. Obtain Breeding Soundness Evaluation (BSE) on bulls, even if they were checked last breeding season. Only use bulls that pass the BSE.
- Finalize plans for your spring breeding program. Purchase new bulls at least 30 days before the breeding. Order semen now, if using artificial insemination.

Fall Calving Herd

- Bull(s) should be away from the cows now!
- Plan to pregnancy check cows soon. You can also blood test for pregnancy as early as 30 days after bull removal.
- Creep feed calves with grain, by-products, or high-quality forage. Calves will not make satisfactory gains on the dam's milk alone after about 4 mos. of age, fall calves need supplemental nutrition. Consider creep grazing on wheat pasture, if available. Calves can also be early weaned. Be sure that feed bunks are low enough that calves can eat with the cows.
- Calves intended for feeders should be implanted.
- Consider adding weight and selling your fall calves as "heavy" feeder calves. Keep them gaining!

General

- Repair fences, equipment, and handling facilities.
- If you have a dry, sunny day, use chain-link harrow to spread manure in areas where cattle have overwintered. This may be done in conjunction with renovation.
- Renovation and fertilization of pastures should be completed.
- Start thistle control. They can be a severe problem in Kentucky pastures. Chemical control must be done early to be effective.
- Watch for lice and treat if needed.



Identification and Control of Henbit and Purple Deadnettle

Gregg C. Munshaw and Michael Barrett, Plant and Soil Sciences

With cooler fall weather a plethora of winter annual weed seeds begin to germinate. Although they germinate in the fall, we typically don't think much of them or even see them until the spring arrives and brings warmer temperatures with it. With the warmer temperatures we begin to see things like chickweeds, buttercups, Carolina geranium, and many others. Most of the winter annual broadleaf weeds are distinguishable from each other and thus fairly easy to key out or identify. However, there are two that show up each spring that often get people scratching their heads as to which is which—is it purple deadnettle (*Lamium purpureum* L.)? Or is it henbit (*Lamium aplexicaule* L.) (Figure 1)? There are several similarities between these weeds—both are members of the mint

family, both have square stems, both have sparsely hairy oval- to egg-shaped leaves, leaves of both are opposite, and both have small purple flowers that appear in the axils of the upper leaves during the spring (Figures 2 and 3).

Although very similar, there are also some distinct differences between the two plants. First, henbit has petioles (the stalk that attaches the leaf to the stem) on the lower leaves but not on upper leaves. Purple deadnettle has long petioles on lower leaves and short petioles on upper leaves. Although the leaves of both plants are similar, purple deadnettle's upper leaves are smaller than its lower leaves. The upper leaves also appear to hang in a loose way and overlap other leaves. These upper leaves can often have a red or purple hue (Figure 4).

Creeping Charlie (*Glechoma hederacea* L.)

Another plant in the mint family that looks similar to henbit and purple deadnettle is creeping Charlie (also known as ground ivy). Because it is a mint, it has the characteristic square stems, but under close inspection, it is easily distinguishable from henbit and purple deadnettle. Whereas henbit and purple deadnettle are winter annuals that flower in early spring and die in the late spring, creeping Charlie is a perennial that will flower in late spring. Flowers are light purple while leaves are kidney shaped and toothed and are attached with long petioles. As the name suggests, this plant will creep and compete with the desirable lawn species for space (Figure 5).



Figure 1. Identifying purple deadnettle (right) and henbit (left) can be quite easy if you know what to look for. (The light colored plant growing among the other plants is common chickweed [*Sterililaria media* L.]

HENBIT VS PURPLE DEADNETTLE

Cultural Control

Deadnettle and henbit are more severe in disturbed areas that lack turf cover. Thin turf caused by disease, voids left from summer weeds, small rodents such as moles, or improper fertilizing or watering can all cause increased numbers of winter annual weeds. Practices to improve the health and density of the turf area will reduce incidence of these two weeds. Proper fertility amounts (2-3 lb of N/1000 ft²/year applied in the fall on cool-season grasses), irrigating deep and infrequently during the summer, mowing at the proper height (2.5-4 inches for most cool-season lawns), and using pest control products when necessary will result in natural weed control due to the overall health of the turf.



Figure 2. The square stems of purple deadnettle (left) and henbit (right) are common identification characteristics of members of the mint family.



Figure 3. The oval shaped leaves and purple flowers are both common characteristics of purple deadnettle (left) and henbit (right).

HENBIT VS PURPLE DEADNETTLE



Figure 4. Leaf and stem differences between purple deadnettle (left) and henbit (right).

Chemical Control

The ideal time to control weeds with a post-emergent herbicide is when they are small and actively growing. For winter annual weeds this is typically in the late fall after weed germination but before temperatures begin to drop and plant growth significantly slows (air temperature needs to be above 50° F). Applica-

tions can be made in the spring as well, but it is important for the herbicide to be applied prior to flowering. A three-way herbicide is most commonly applied for control of these two weeds. Three way herbicides contain 2,4-D, mecoprop (mcpp), and dicamba and can be found in most garden centers. Glyphosate is commonly used for control of henbit and purple deadnettle in landscape beds.

Pre-emergent herbicides may also be used to control henbit and purple deadnettle. These herbicides must be applied in the early fall prior to weed germination. One critical factor to keep in mind if applying a fall pre-emerge is that interseeding or overseeding to help thicken a lawn cannot be performed as the herbicide will also inhibit the desirable plants from germinating.

Broadleaf Weeds of Kentucky Pastures

J.D. Green, Plant and Soil Sciences



Spiny Amaranth



Buttercup



Cocklebur



Horsenettle



Tall Ironweed



Hemp Dogbane



Poison Hemlock



Marshelder



Common Milkweed



Jimsonweed



Sericea Lespedeza



Maypop Passionflower



Buckhorn Plantain



Perilla Mint



Multiflora Rose



Trumpet creeper



Canada Thistle



Common Ragweed



Lanceleaf Ragweed



Wild Carrot



Bull Thistle



Musk Thistle



Curly Dock



Chicory

MANAGING SPRING PASTURES

DR. CHRIS TEUTSCH, FORAGE SPECIALIST, UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

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.

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- **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!

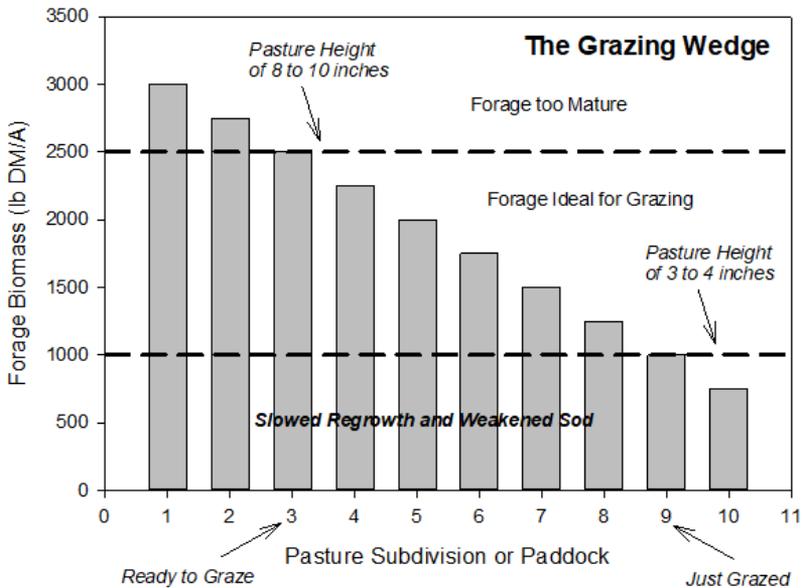


Figure 1. The “grazing wedge” simply refers to having pasture subdivisions or paddocks at varying stages of regrowth from just grazed to ready to graze.

JOIN
US

MASON
COUNTY
CATTLEMEN'S
ASSOCIATION

CAIP Education



Mason County Extension Office
6:00

SPRING MEETING

We're excited to welcome UK Extension Professor Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler, who will be presenting findings from a recent study conducted by UK and Merck Animal Health. The study explores the prevalence of fecal eggs in Kentucky beef cattle and the effectiveness of dewormers in reducing them post-treatment.



Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler

Join us for an evening of food, fellowship, and education!



dinner & door prizes



Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

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.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS



Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

BQCA

BEEF QUALITY CARE ASSURANCE



Mason County Extension Office



April is FREE!

- ~~February 24 - 5-6:30 PM~~
- ~~March 24 - 10-11:30 AM~~
- April 14 - 5-6:30 PM
- April 24 - 10-11:30 AM

Please bring \$5 certification fee or \$10 if you wish to purchase a farm sign (Certification is free in April)

REGISTER HERE



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4-H Youth Development

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS

 Cooperative
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CATTLE GRADING



APRIL 22, 2025

FARMERS STOCKYARDS

255 HELENA RD, FLEMINGSBURG

Speaker: Mr. Jim Akers

- Live feeder grading demonstration
- Price determination
- What causes discounts
- Cow condition scoring
- Market outlook



USE THE QR CODE OR CALL TO REGISTER

- BRACKEN COUNTY: (606) 735-2141
- FLEMING COUNTY: (606) 845-4641
- LEWIS COUNTY: (606) 796-2732
- MASON COUNTY: (606) 564-6808
- ROBERTSON CO.: (606) 724-5796



COUNTS FOR 2 HOURS FOR 4-H LIVESTOCK EDUCATIONAL HOURS

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS



Eden Shale Farm Tour



APRIL 25, 2025
10:30AM - TOUR

REGISTER NOW

CALL US

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- MASON COUNTY: (606) 564-6808
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ATTENTION PLEASE



VAN SPACES ARE LIMITED TO THE FIRST 11 PEOPLE THAT REGISTER & REQUEST A SEAT IN THE VAN.

FOLKS CAN ALSO DRIVE & MEET US AT EDEN SHALE THAT DAY.

****IF RIDING IN THE COUNTY VAN- DEPARTURE TIMES WILL VARY BY LOCATION****

REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY: APRIL 4, 2025

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QUALITY HAY PRODUCTION FIELD DAY



FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2025

LOCATION: 1965 MARTHA MILLS RD, FLEMINGSBURG

9:00AM-3:00PM

RAIN LOCATION: FLEMING CO.
EXTENSION OFFICE

SPONSOR

- **9:00AM:** REGISTRATION, DONUTS, & VENDORS OPEN
- **10:00AM-NOON:** UK SPECIALISTS COVER VARIETY OF TOPICS ON WEED ID, VISUAL COMPARISONS OF HAY QUALITY AND MORE!
- **NOON:** LUNCH & VENDORS
- **12:30PM:** LOCAL EQUIPMENT DEALERSHIPS DEMOS

UK Cooperative Extension Service




Montgomery Tractor
Since 1952

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PLEASE REGISTER BY: MAY 3RD

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS

UK Cooperative
Extension Service



2025 FARMERS MARKET EDUCATION PROGRAM

HOSTED BY THE BUFFALO TRACE COUNTY AREA UK COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OFFICES



6:00PM

AT FLEMING COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
OR VIA ZOOM OR ****WATCH PARTY****

****Check local office to verify watch party option****

- **FEBRUARY 18** PRODUCE BEST PRACTICES TRAINING
- **MARCH 25** SENIOR/WIC FARMERS MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM TRAINING
- **APRIL 8** HOMEBASED PROCESSOR DO'S & DON'TS
- **APRIL 29** PARTNERING GROUPS- HOW THEY CAN HELP

REGISTER BY: FEBRUARY 14TH

USE THE QR CODE OR CONTACT YOUR LOCAL OFFICE TO REGISTER:

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One-pot Pasta with Fresh Tomato Sauce



12 ounces tri-colored pasta
8 medium tomatoes, diced**
2 cups low-sodium chicken broth
1 small yellow onion, sliced
4 garlic cloves, minced or 2 tablespoons garlic powder

1 teaspoon dried oregano
1 tablespoon fresh basil, chopped or
1 teaspoon dried
1 teaspoon salt

6 ounces baby spinach with stems removed
 Parmesan cheese to top
 Fresh basil for garnish (optional)

Place all of the ingredients except the spinach, parmesan, and additional fresh basil in a large pot. **Cover** pot with lid and **bring** to boil over medium-high heat. **Reduce** heat to medium-low and let **simmer** for 6 minutes or until pasta is slightly al dente, **stir** occasionally. **Remove** from heat. **Stir** in spinach; **cover** and let stand 5 minutes. **Top** with parmesan cheese and basil just before serving.

***Substitute 2, 14-ounce cans low-sodium diced tomatoes when tomatoes are out of season.*

Yield: 6, 1 ½ cup servings

Nutritional Analysis:
 260 calories, 2g fat, 0g saturated fat, 0g trans fat, 0mg cholesterol, 460mg sodium, 51g carbohydrate, 3g fiber, 8g total sugars, 0g added sugars, 12g protein

Kentucky Tomatoes

SEASON: July through October

NUTRITION FACTS: Tomatoes are rich in nutrients that promote good health, including fiber and vitamins C and A. A medium tomato contains about 25 calories, 20 mg sodium, and is a good source of potassium.

SELECTION: Choose firm, well-shaped tomatoes that are fragrant and rich in color. Tomatoes should be free from blemishes, heavy for their size, and give slightly to pressure. Three to four medium tomatoes weigh about 1 pound. One pound of tomatoes yields about 2 1/2 cups of chopped tomatoes.

STORAGE: Store ripe tomatoes at room temperature, and use them within three days. Keep out of direct sunlight. Place green tomatoes in a paper bag to ripen.

PREPARATION: Wash fresh tomatoes in cool running water.

To peel: Place tomatoes in boiling water for about 30 seconds, then transfer to cold water. Skins will slip off.

To seed: Scrape seeds away from the flesh with a pointed utensil. Avoid puncturing the skin.

To slice: Slice lengthwise to retain juice. A serrated knife works best.

TOMATOES

Kentucky Proud Project
 County Extension Agents for Family and Consumer Sciences
 University of Kentucky, Dietetics and Human Nutrition students
May 2020

Source: FruitsAndVeggies.org

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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University of Kentucky
 College of Agriculture,
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IMPORTANT DATES

| | |
|----------|---|
| April 8 | Farmers Market Program 6:00PM Fleming Co Extension Office or Zoom ✓ |
| April 14 | BQCA Training 5-6:30PM Mason County Extension Office ✓ |
| April 19 | Germantown Beef Show Germantown Fairgrounds |
| April 22 | Cattle Grading 6:00 Flemingsburg Stockyards ✓ |
| April 23 | Mason Co Cattlemen's Meeting 6:00 Mason County Extension Office ✓ |
| April 24 | BQCA Training 10-11:30AM Mason County Extension Office ✓ |
| April 25 | Eden Shale Farm Tour 10:30AM Eden Shale Farm ✓ |
| April 29 | Farmers Market Program 6:00PM Fleming Co Extension Office or Zoom ✓ |
| April 30 | Meadowview/YMCA Health Fair Limestone YMCA 8:00-1:00 |
| May | National Beef Month |
| May 3 | Small Animal Tag In 9:00AM Maysville Stockyards |
| May 9 | Hay Production Field Day 9:00-3:00 1965 Martha Mills Rd, Flemingsburg ✓ |
| May 26 | Memorial Day Extension Office Closed |
| July 5 | Germantown Lamb and Goat Show Germantown Fairgrounds |
| July 19 | Germantown Swine Show Germantown Fairgrounds |

CAIP Eligible ✓



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College of Agriculture,
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Cooperative Extension Service

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