

The Mason County mAGazine

A Monthly Agricultural Newsletter



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A NOTE FROM YOUR AGENT

Hello all,

With spring just around the corner, I know you're preparing for one of the busiest and most important times of the year. As the days grow longer and things warm up, it's the perfect moment to get everything in place for a strong start to the season.

I want to encourage you to take time to test your soil. A simple soil test can make a big difference, helping you understand nutrient levels, pH balance, and what your crops need to thrive. Healthy soil is the foundation of a productive farm.

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

800 US HIGHWAY 68 | MAYSVILLE, KY 41056 | P: 606-564-6808 | AUDREY.WRIGHT@UKY.EDU

**Cooperative
Extension Service**

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth 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, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veterans status, physical or mental disability or receipt of or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English.
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TIMELY TIPS

DR. LES ANDERSON, BEEF EXTENSION PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

Spring Calving Herd

- Watch cows and calves closely. Work hard to save every calf. Calves can be identified with an ear tag while they are young and easy to handle. Commercial male calves should be castrated and implanted. Registered calves should be weighed at birth.
- Cows that have calved need to be on an adequate nutritional level to rebreed. Increase their feed after calving. Do not let them lose body condition. Keep feeding them until pastures are adequate.
- Do not “rush to grass” although it can be really tempting. Be sure that grass has accumulated enough growth to support the cow’s nutritional needs before depending solely upon it. Cows may walk the pastures looking for green grass instead of eating dry feed. This lush, watery grass is not adequate to support them. Keep them consuming dry feed until sufficient grass is available to sustain body condition. We’ve spent too much money keeping them in good condition to lose it now!
- Prevent grass tetany! Provide magnesium in the mineral mix until daytime temperatures are consistently above 60o F. Mineral supplement should always be available and contain a minimum of about 14% magnesium. Make sure that your mineral mix also contains adequate selenium, copper, and zinc. You can ask your feed dealer about the UK Beef IRM High Magnesium Mineral.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

- Make final selection of heifer replacements. Strongly consider vaccinating with a modified-live BVD vaccine.
- Purchase replacement bulls at least 30 days before the breeding season starts. Have herd bulls evaluated for breeding soundness (10-20% of bulls are questionable or unsatisfactory breeders). Get all bulls in proper condition (BCS 6) for breeding.
- If you are going to use artificial insemination and/or estrous synchronization, make plans now and order needed supplies, semen, and schedule a technician.
- Prebreeding or "turnout" working is usually scheduled for late April or May between the end of calving season and before the start of the breeding season (while cows are open). Consult your veterinarian about vaccines and health products your herd needs. Decide now on the products needed and have handling facilities in good working order. Dehorn commercial calves before going to pasture.

Fall Calving Herd

- Pregnancy check cows now and cull open ones at weaning especially if the open cows are older than 6 years of age.
- Re-implant feeders.
- Consult with your veterinarian about preweaning working of the herd.
- You may let calves creep-graze wheat or rye if it is available. Calves will benefit from extra feed until spring grass appears.
- Plan marketing strategy for feeder calves.

General

- We have made a muddy mess this winter, so be prepared to reseed bare spots. Our forage group has some excellent information on restoring heavy-traffic areas.
- Make plans to improve hay feeding areas to avoid muddy conditions like we have faced this winter. Consider geotextile fabric with gravel or concrete feeding pads.
- Prepare for the grazing season. Check fences and make necessary repairs. Check your corral, too.
- Get everything ready to make high quality hay in May! Have equipment serviced and spare parts on hand. Order baler twine now. Be prepared to harvest an adequate supply of hay when you have the opportunity. Re-supply the extra hay that you fed out of the barn. This past winter caused most producers to exhaust their hay supply, so it is time to re-stock.
- Plan now for fly control ... decide what fly control program that you will use but do not put insecticide eartags on cattle until fly population appears.

SOIL TESTING: WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT DOES

W.O. THOM, K.L. WELLS, L.W. MURDOCK, AND F. SIKORA, DEPARTMENT OF AGRONOMY

Why Soil Test?

Different soil types, different fields, and often areas within the same field vary in the availability of plant nutrients. Also, a field may contain a low level of one nutrient and a high level of another nutrient. Such variations are usually due to differences in:

- previous fertilizer and lime applications
- cropping history
- nutrient contents of the parent materials, and
- losses of surface soil through erosion

Soil testing is the best way to identify these differences and to adjust liming and fertilization practices.

Soil test results should be included in a record system for each production field on a farm, along with the amounts of lime and fertilizer applied each year, the crops grown, and the yields obtained. In an effective sampling program, each production field should be tested at least every three to four years. Some intensive cropping systems should be sampled every two to three years. Annual sampling is preferable for high cash crops, e.g., alfalfa and double-crop silage production. Only through such a record system can fertility and/or production levels be monitored over time. This is valuable information when making decisions on fertilizer investments and production practices.

How Does It Work?

Soil samples, carefully collected according to instruction (see Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service publication AGR-16, Taking Soil Test Samples), are delivered with the necessary information to the local county Extension office. Samples are then sent to the laboratory for testing. After considering soil test levels, past fertilization and liming, cropping history, and the crop to be fertilized or limed, county Extension agents base their lime and fertilizer recommendations on guidelines in Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service publication AGR-1, Lime and Fertilizer Recommendations.

For correct lime and fertilizer rates, the soil test must be calibrated with crop yield responses to lime and fertilizer applications. Personnel from the University of Kentucky Department of Agronomy annually conduct field experiments throughout Kentucky to provide a basis for the guidelines published in AGR-1. Recommendations in AGR-1 apply only to test levels obtained in laboratories under supervision of the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture and should not be used for soil test values from any other laboratories where testing procedures may differ.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

What Tests Are Made?

- **Routine Soil Test:** All samples tested by the University of Kentucky labs are routinely analyzed for pH (water), pH (buffer), and extractable phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, zinc, and an estimated CEC.
- **Greenhouse Saturation Test:** This special test includes pH (water), pH (buffer), nitrate-nitrogen, soluble salts, and extractable phosphorus, potassium, calcium, and magnesium.
- **Other Special Tests:** See your county Extension agent for details.

Why Is Additional Information Needed?

Along with the soil sample, you need to submit the appropriate information form (available at your county Extension office) for either:

- agricultural soils
- home gardens, lawn, and turfgrass
- commercial horticultural crops, or
- greenhouse crops

Your county Extension agent needs the information on the appropriate form to make recommendations.

What about Nitrogen Tests?

Neither the amount of organic matter nor the amount of nitrate has proven to be a reliable indicator of available nitrogen for field crops grown under Kentucky conditions. For this reason, present nitrogen recommendations for field crops are based on past cropping history, soil management, soil properties, and experimental data.

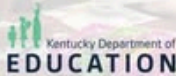
The University of Kentucky Soil Testing Lab does provide an optional organic matter and a greenhouse saturation test (the latter includes nitrate-nitrogen). These tests are most useful for greenhouse, landscaping, and specialty crops. However, the nitrate-nitrogen results from this test may be used in unusual situations to help determine if large amounts of nitrogen have been lost during extended wet periods or flooding, or if nitrogen levels are adequate for crop growth from heavily manured fields. More recently, some states have used soil nitrate concentration when corn is 8 to 12 inches high to adjust N fertilizer rates at sidedressing. Kentucky has limited research data to demonstrate consistent results from this testing. The greatest opportunity for this test may be in fields receiving manure or organic N nutrient sources.

THE MASON COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE HAS SOIL PROBES PRODUCERS CAN BORROW FOR SOIL TESTING, JUST STOP BY TO SIGN ONE OUT!

ALL IN FOR AG EDUCATION WEEK

MARCH 17-21, 2025

kyagr.com/agedweek



Kentucky Ag Education Week is a state-wide Agriculture Education Week March 17-21. Ag Education Week delivers an all-encompassing learning experience for students, equips educators with ready-to-use resources and lessons, and fosters community involvement to create dynamic, hands-on learning focused on the diverse world of Kentucky agriculture.

Mason County Extension Agents will be doing hands-on programs in numerous classrooms throughout this week in March!

UPCOMING PROGRAMS



UK Cooperative Extension Service

APPLE TREE GRAFTING/PRUNING WORKSHOP

Hosted by the Buffalo Trace Cooperative Extension Offices

MARCH 8, 2025

8:30AM - 2PM @ FLEMING COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
1384 ELIZAVILLE RD, FLEMINGSBURG, KY

TOPICS:

- GRAFTING & APPLE VARIETIES
- DISEASE & INSECT MANAGEMENT
- PRUNING: HANDS-ON DEMO @SMS



**PLEASE REGISTER BY:
MARCH 1ST**



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

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



Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

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Accessibility accommodations available upon request.

YOU CAN REGISTER FOR PROGRAMS WITH THE QR CODE ABOVE, THROUGH THE LINKS ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE, OR CALLING THE OFFICE!

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

JOIN
US

MASON COUNTY CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION



CAIP Education



Mason County Extension Office
6:00

SPRING MEETING

UK Extension Professor Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler will be speaking about the nutritional aspects of distillers grain, and Rip's Farm Supply will discuss their Whiskey Slop Feeding Program.

The Augusta Distillery will not be able to attend, but are going to provide information about the distiller's grain they have to offer to local cattle producers.



Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler



dinner & door prizes



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.



TOBACCO GAP TRAINING

 Cooperative
Extension Service


CONNECTIONS

▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶▶
March 12, 2025
6:00PM

MASON COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
800 US-68, MAYSVILLE, KY

TO REGISTER USE THE QR CODE OR CALL
YOUR LOCAL EXTENSION OFFICE.



- BRACKEN COUNTY: (606) 735-2141
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****BE SURE TO BRING YOUR
TOBACCO GAP CARD WITH YOU****

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS



PRIVATE APPLICATOR TRAINING



Mason County
Extension Office



REGISTER HERE



- February 17 -- 5-8 PM
- February 27 -- 8-11 AM
- March 17 - 1-4 PM

Please register at least a week prior to the training- if no one registers, it will be cancelled.

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS

 Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

BQCA

BEEF QUALITY CARE ASSURANCE

 Mason County Extension Office

- ~~February 24 - 5-6:30 PM~~
- March 24 - 10-11:30 AM
- April 14 - 5-6:30 PM
- April 24 - 10-11:30 AM APRIL IS FREE!

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

Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development

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REGISTER HERE



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FARM & FAMILY NIGHT

Save the Date:

March 11th, 2025



**Presenting our
Title Sponsor**



**Tickets available
after February 3rd**

Questions? Call (606) 301-6118



**WORKFORCE
SOLUTIONS**

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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UK Cooperative
Extension Service

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



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COUNTS FOR 2 HOURS FOR 4-H LIVESTOCK EDUCATIONAL HOURS

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Community and Economic Development

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS



Eden Shale Farm Tour



APRIL 25, 2025 10:30AM - TOUR

REGISTER NOW

CALL US

- 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

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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 Lexington, KY 40506



ROUTINE TRACTOR MAINTENANCE TASKS

Be ready for the growing season before it starts with these routine maintenance tasks.

- Inspect axles and steering
- Check coolant system
- Check tension, cracks, and wear of the belts
- Clean air filter
- Check engine oil
- Inspect the battery
- Check clutch and brake linkages
- Inspect hydraulic reservoir
- Check tire pressure
- Keep the tractor and hydraulic connections clean to prevent dirt buildup

**LEARN MORE BY
CONTACTING YOUR
COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE**



An Equal Opportunity Organization.



Sweet Potato Crisp

3 large fresh sweet potatoes, cooked until tender.

8 ounces reduced fat cream cheese, softened

1 cup brown sugar, divided

1 teaspoon vanilla

1 tablespoon ground cinnamon

2 medium apples, chopped

½ cup all-purpose flour

¾ cup quick cooking oats

3 tablespoons butter

¼ cup chopped pecans

1. Preheat oven to 350° F. Lightly spray a 13 x 9 x 2 inch pan with non-stick spray.

2. Mash sweet potatoes. Add cream cheese, ⅔ cup brown sugar, vanilla and cinnamon. Mix until smooth.

3. Spread sweet potato mixture evenly into pan.

4. Top sweet potatoes

with chopped apples.

5. In a small bowl, **combine** flour, oats, and ⅓ cup brown sugar. **Cut** in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbles. **Stir** in pecans.

6. Sprinkle mixture over apples.

7. Bake uncovered for 35-40 minutes or until

topping is golden brown and fruit is tender.

Yield: 16, ¾ cup servings.

Nutritional Analysis:

240 calories, 6 g fat, 3 g sat fat, 5 mg cholesterol, 200 mg sodium, 44 g carbohydrate, 4 g fiber, 20 g sugar, 4 g protein.



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

Kentucky Sweet Potato

SEASON: All year—peak season is October through March.

NUTRITION FACTS: Sweet Potatoes are a good source of fiber, complex carbohydrates and vitamins A and C.

SELECTION: Two varieties of sweet potatoes are grown in Kentucky. The pale sweet potato has a light yellow skin and pale yellow flesh that is dry and crumbly. The darker variety has a dark skin and orange sweet flesh that cooks up moist. Choose small to medium-sized ones with smooth, unbruised skin.

STORAGE: Store unwrapped in a cool (50 degree) dry, dark place with good ventilation for up to 2 months or at room temperature for 2 weeks.

PREPARATION: Scrub well. Leave whole or peel, then slice, dice or shred.

Baking: Pierce skin in several places and rub with

Source: www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov

margarine if desired. Arrange in a single layer and bake uncovered in a 375° F oven until soft when squeezed (45-60 minutes.)

Boiling: In a 3-quart pan, boil 4 whole medium-size potatoes, covered in 2 inches water until tender when pierced. Drain.

Microwaving: Pierce skin, place on a paper towel in microwave. If cooking more than 2 at a time, arrange like spokes. Microwave on high, turning halfway through cooking time. Allow 4-5 minutes for one potato.

SWEET POTATOES

Kentucky Proud Project

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

OCTOBER 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



IMPORTANT DATES

March 8	Apple Graphing/Pruning Workshop 8:30AM Fleming Co Extension Office
March 11	Farm and Family Night MCTC
March 12	Tobacco GAP Training 6:00PM Mason County Extension Office
March 17	Private Applicator Training 1-4 PM Mason County Extension Office
March 24	BQCA Training 10-11:30AM Mason County Extension Office
March 25	New ANR Agent Welcome Reception 3-5 Mason County Extension Office
March 25	Farmers Market Program 6:00PM Fleming Co Extension Office or Zoom
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 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
May 3	Small Animal Tag In 9:00AM Maysville Stockyards



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

Mason County

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Maysville, KY 41056

Return Service

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