

# THE FARMACY

## DECEMBER NEWS

**UK** Martin-Gatton  
 College of Agriculture,  
 Food and Environment  
 Cooperative Extension Service  
 Scott County  
 1130 Cincinnati Rd  
 Georgetown KY 40324-8934  
 (502) 863-0984  
 Fax: (502) 863-2392  
 extension.ca.uky.edu



# Agent Remarks

The winter and holiday season is upon us here in the Bluegrass. The cold weather brings holiday cheer, as well as feeding hay, busting ice, and all the other fun winter chores on the farm. I have included an article from the National Weather Service on the 2023-2024 winter outlook for Kentucky.

Winter meetings and trainings are also in full swing. You can find private applicator and beef quality assurance training dates in the events section of this newsletter. If you have conflicts and cannot make it to any of the scheduled dates, please reach out to me and we can work something out.

I am also excited to announce that the ANR and FCS program areas are offering an international trip to Italy in July of 2025. The focus of this trip is sustainable agriculture. If you are interested, sign up for the informational meeting on December 12th. Find more information on page 10.

Please reach out if you have any questions about the upcoming programs or any of the articles.

I hope you and your families stay safe this holiday season!



### In This Issue

- Agent Remarks.....1
- Grain Crops.....2
- 2023 -2024 Winter Outlook for Kentucky.....3
- Office Closed.....3
- Ag Economics and Policy.....4
- Forage News.....5
- December Recipe.....6
- Conservation Corner.....6
- Livestock.....7
- Wildlife Information.....8
- Events.....8-11



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

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



Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

Lexington, KY 40506

# Grain Crops

## 2023 Revenue Insurance Payment Scenarios for Corn and Soybeans

-Dr. Grant Gardner

October 31st marks the end of the harvest price discovery period for revenue protection crop insurance policies. The harvest price is used to calculate crop insurance indemnity payments and is the average December (corn) and November (soybeans) futures settlement prices during October.

Click [HERE](#) to read more!



## How Many Grain Loads to Core a Bin?

-Dr. Sam McNeill

Broken grain and trash/foreign material tend to accumulate in the center of grain bins during filling. Air will not pass through this area very well, so the best management practice is to remove this material from the bin (often referred to as ‘corning’) and either store it separately or feed or sell it quickly to avoid potential problems during storage. This raises the question of how many bushels of grain are in the cone-shaped center peak, but this varies by type of grain and the filling angle of the grain surface (the angle of repose). The UK storage volume calculator includes a table for different size bins that shows the number of bushels of corn, grain sorghum, soybeans, or wheat in the center peak. For example, a 36-ft diameter bin holds between 4160 to 7390 bushels, depending on the type of grain and angle of repose (see table below). Other bin sizes are also shown and more are available at <https://www.uky.edu/bae/grain-storage-systems>. Click [HERE](#) to read more!



# The 2023-2024 Winter Outlook for Kentucky

-Derrick Snyder, National Weather Service

As the leaves change colors and fall to the ground, crops are harvested, and tendrils of frost form on plants, conversation often turns to what the coming winter will bring. As we have seen, winter in Kentucky can bring a bit of everything, from ice and snow, to flooding, to bitter cold - even severe weather. Given how variable the weather during the winter can be, is it possible to predict what will happen? Many of us have heard homespun wisdom about ways to predict what an upcoming winter will bring. Some of the more popular ones include how dark the hair of a woolly worm is in the fall, the shape of the seed inside of a persimmon, and counting the number of morning fogs in August. Unfortunately, these tales are not necessarily based in truth. The National Weather Service has a division called the Climate Prediction Center (CPC). The climatologists use historical data and pattern recognition, along with latest trends and observations, to predict a seasonal outlook. This past month, CPC just issued the outlook for the upcoming 2023/2024 Winter Season. So how does it shake out?

The winter outlook compiled by CPC covers the months of December, January, and February. It is not possible to give a day by day forecast of what will happen, but it is possible to forecast whether a region will see a greater chance of above-, below-, or near-normal temperatures and precipitation (rain and melted snow and ice). If there is not a strong signal either way, the outlook will say that a region will have an equal chance of seeing above-, below-, or near-normal temperatures and precipitation. It is important to remember that these outlooks cover a three-month period. Periods of cold weather can occur when above-normal temperatures are favored, and the opposite can happen when below-normal temperatures are favored. The same rule also applies for precipitation.

This year, the United States is entering into a strong El Niño pattern. During El Niño, trade winds weaken in the Pacific Ocean. Warm water is pushed back east, toward the west coast of the Americas. El Niño means Little Boy in Spanish. South American fishermen first noticed periods of unusually warm water in the Pacific Ocean in the 1600s. The full name they used was El Niño de Navidad, because El Niño typically peaks around December.

El Niño can affect our weather significantly. The warmer waters cause the Pacific jet stream to move south of its neutral position. With this shift, areas in the northern U.S. and Canada are dryer and warmer than usual. But in the U.S. Gulf Coast and Southeast, these periods are wetter than usual and have increased flooding. In Kentucky, the outlook for this winter slightly favors above-normal temperatures across the entire state. For precipitation, the great majority of the state has an equal chance of seeing above-, below-, or near-normal precipitation. However, across far northern Kentucky, the outlook does slightly favor below-normal precipitation amounts. How will this end up playing out over the winter? - We shall have to wait and see!

---

## Extension Office Closed

The Scott County Extension Office will be closed for Christmas and New Years from Monday, December 25th to Monday, January 1st. It will reopen on Tuesday, January 2nd. We want to wish you and your families a Happy Holiday and New Year!



# Ag Economics and Policy

## The Face of Agriculture in 2050

-Dr. Dennis Egli

Droughts, deluges, and high temperatures are harbingers of a changing climate. Agricultural systems must change, perhaps radically, to counter climate change and continue feeding the world.

What systems will produce our food in 2050?

Click [HERE](#) to read more!



## Capital Investment Analysis

-Dr. Steve Isaacs

Investments in land, machinery, livestock, facilities, the things that will last, and hopefully make money, are long term decisions with major implications for the business. They're the things we really want... the farm next door, the new tractor, a nice shop building. The things we REALLY want. We're usually talking about things that cost a lot up front and whose costs (and returns) are spread over several years (or decades). It's important to get it right, but too often emotion plays a bigger role than analysis.

Click [HERE](#) to read more!



## Secrets of Successful Farm Managers

-Kayla Brashears

After spending over a decade analyzing a plethora of farm operations, I've learned a few things about what makes an operation successful. There isn't a hidden formula anyone can follow to become successful, but there are best practices that operations can implement to position themselves favorably.

Click [HERE](#) to read more!



# Forage News

## Clover Seed in Short Supply

- UK Forage Extension

Red and white clover are currently in short supply, both in the U.S. and worldwide. This means that if you want to frost seed clover in February you are advised to purchase or line up your seed before Christmas. Improved varieties will be especially difficult to obtain if you wait until the last minute. To find the best adapted varieties for KY, go to the variety tab on the UK Forage Website and review the [Long Term Summary](#). Red clover is page 4 and red clover is page 5.

Click [HERE](#) for the Long Term Summary!



## Weed Management for Pasture and Fence Line Systems

-Tarah Young

You need to control plant species that are detrimental to the goals of your grazing operations. Certain weed species are potentially poisonous to grazing livestock. Often, undesirable plants are very aggressive and compete with forage stands for resources (light, water and nutrients). For both of these reasons, weed control in newly renovated or established pastures is a worthwhile use of time and effort.

Click [HERE](#) to read more!

## *Forage Timely Tips: December*

- Begin utilizing stockpiled pastures. Graze pastures with orchardgrass and clovers first. Save tall fescue pastures for late winter grazing.
- Using polywire, strip graze stockpiled pastures to improve utilization. Start at the water source and allocate enough forage for 2-3 days. Back fencing is not necessary.
- Make plans to frost seed red and white clover onto closely grazed pastures in February.
- Begin hay feeding as stockpiled forage is used up.
- Minimizing waster by utilizing ring feeders.
- Reflect on last year and plan for the new year.



## Mozzarella Basil Chicken with Roasted Grape Tomatoes

**4** (4 ounce) boneless chicken breast halves  
**½ cup** lite balsamic vinaigrette dressing

**12** large fresh basil leaves  
**2 ounces** low-fat skim mozzarella cheese, cut into four slices

**2 ½ cups** grape tomatoes, halved  
**4 tablespoons** shredded Parmesan cheese

**Place** chicken breasts into a 1 gallon zip close plastic bag. **Pour** ½ cup of dressing over chicken. **Marinate** in refrigerator for 30 minutes. **Preheat** oven to 400 degrees F. **Remove** chicken breasts from marinade. **Discard** bag and marinade. Make a deep **slice** into one long side of each chicken breast half, being careful not to cut through to the opposite side. **Fill** each chicken breast pocket with 2 basil leaves, 1 slice of mozzarella cheese, and two grape tomato halves. **Place** chicken on one side of rimmed baking sheet sprayed with nonstick spray;

add tomatoes to the other side of baking sheet. **Sprinkle** each breast half with 1 tablespoon of Parmesan cheese. **Bake** 30 minutes or until chicken reaches an internal temperature of 165 degrees F. **Cut** remaining basil leaves into thin slices and toss with remaining dressing and roasted tomatoes. **Serve** chicken topped with tomato mixture.

**Yield:** 4 servings

**Nutritional Analysis:** 220 calories, 6 g fat, 3 g saturated fat, 85 mg cholesterol, 720 mg sodium, 10 g carbohydrate, 1 g fiber, 5 g sugar, 31 g protein.



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

<http://plateitup.ca.uky.edu>

## Conservation Corner

Here are some ways the Scott County Conservation District can help you!

### Backyard Conservation

Programs Include:

- Plant a Tree - 50% cost-share up to \$100
- Pollinator Plot - 50% cost-share up to \$100
- Rain Barrel Kit - 50% cost-share up to \$25.00
- Garden Cover Crop - Free bags of wheat seed

Scott County Conservation District

100 E Penn Ave (M-F 9:00 - 2:00pm),  
 502-863-2466, [scottcountycd@yahoo.com](mailto:scottcountycd@yahoo.com)

### Local Cost Share

Programs Include:

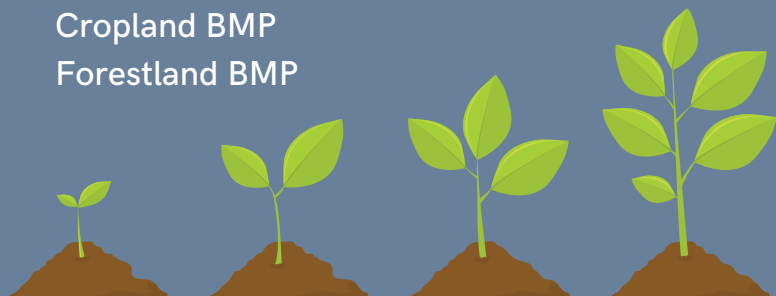
- Gateway, Barn Entrance & Heavy Traffic Corridor Erosion Control Program
- Pipeline and Waterer
- Cover Crop
- Pasture Renovation

### State Cost Share

Applications accepted for 2024 funding until October 30, 2023

4 Areas of Interest:

- Livestock - Animal Feeding Operations (AFO)
- Livestock - Pastureland BMP
- Cropland BMP
- Forestland BMP





# Livestock



## Direct Marketing of Beef, Pork, or Lamb: Is this an Opportunity for you?

-Matthew Fischer, Steve Richards, and Brian Bolt

Direct marketing of livestock products is a venture that can provide additional income if done correctly. There are four key steps involved in this type of marketing: (1) identify your market and the laws for selling, (2) choose a meat processor, (3) develop strategies to promote your product, and (4) communicate what you have to offer correctly and concisely.

Click [HERE](#) to read more!

## Winter Management Tips for Sheep and Goats

-Micheal Metzger, Michigan State University

As cold weather approaches, it is important to consider the comfort of the sheep and goats we care for. Winter can be a stressful time for livestock. As owners, we need to help to reduce that stress by providing proper care, feeding, and management practices. Adjusting management practices will help to ensure that sheep under your care will thrive through the cold winter months.

Click [HERE](#) to read more!



## Winter Care For Horses

-Sarah L. Ralston & Carey Williams, Rutgers University

As days get shorter and the weather becomes cold and wet, there are many things to consider in order to maintain horse health and well-being throughout the long winter months. This fact sheet addresses the most common concerns regarding equine housing, health maintenance, nutrition and exercise in cold weather.

Click [HERE](#) to read more!





# Wildlife

## Small Mammals and Bats

-Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife

Twenty-seven small mammal species are known to occur in Kentucky. This number is based on a statewide small mammal survey conducted by KDFWR that began in 1988 to determine the distribution of all small mammals in KY. The survey utilized pitfall, bottle, and snap traps placed in a variety of habitats on public and private lands. This comprehensive survey produced over 9000 specimens and determined that the Northern Short-tailed shrew was the most widely distributed small mammal in the state. Species with extremely limited distributions included the Southern Short-tailed Shrew, Southern Red-backed Vole, Allegheny Woodrat, Marsh Rice Rat, Cotton Mouse, Hispid Cotton Rat, Masked Shrew, and the Long-tailed shrew

Click [HERE](#) to read more!



## Forest Management - Plan ahead in the Winter Season

-Russell Kidd, Michigan State University

If you are a woodland owner, the winter season is a good time to think about the long-term health and condition of the woods on your property. According to forestry experts at [Michigan State University Extension](#), the key to improving conditions on your land is to know exactly what you want to achieve and build a plan to accomplish it. Once a landowner clearly identifies what they want to improve or produce more of on their wooded property, a set of management practices can be devised to achieve those goals.

Click [HERE](#) to learn more!





# Private Applicator Training

Session 1: January 19th at 8am  
Session 2: February 19th at 5pm

Sessions will be held at the Scott County Extension Office, 1130 Cincinnati Rd. Georgetown, KY. You only need to attend one session. If your certification is expiring you will receive information in the mail about it. For questions or to RSVP call the Scott County Extension Office at 502-863-0984.

CAIP Eligible



# December Events



## Save the

↓ DATE ↓

## Pasture Please

January 18th at the Scott County Extension Office at 5:30pm.

CAIP Eligible



# Beef Quality Assurance Training

Session 1: Friday, January 12th @ 8am  
Session 2: Monday, February 26th @ 5pm

Sessions will be held at the Scott County Extension Office, 1130 Cincinnati Rd. Georgetown, KY. You only need to attend one session. Individuals with an expiring BQCA Certification will receive information in the mail. For questions or to RSVP call the Scott County Extension Office at 502-863-0984.

CAIP Eligible



Beef Quality Assurance





**Thomas Butts**  
University of Arkansas

Topic: Drone Herbicide Applications: What Do We Need to Know for Success?

**Carl Bradley**  
University of Kentucky

Topic: Red Crown Rot of Soybean: Disease Management and Potential Impacts of this New Disease on Soybean Production in Kentucky

**Raul Villanueva**  
University of Kentucky

Topic: Abundance of Emergent Pests in the 2022-23 Corn and Soybean seasons in Kentucky

# KCHC

## Kentucky Crop Health Conference

Feb. 8, 2024 - National Corvette Museum - Bowling Green, Ky.

Speakers include University of Kentucky Extension Specialists and invited nationally prominent Extension Specialists from across the United States



Tickets on sale now - breakfast and lunch included  
Conference sign-in begins at 8:30 a.m. CST

Scan QR Code or visit: <https://kchc2024.eventbrite.com> (non-refundable after Jan. 25, 2024)

CREDITS — CCA: 5 CEUs, IPM — PAT: 6 CEUs Category 1A (Ag Plant); 1 CEU Category 11 (Aerial)



**Gregory Tylka**  
Iowa State University

Topic: Soybean Cyst Nematode: Past, present, and future

**Travis Legleiter**  
University of Kentucky

Topic: Dealing with the Stretch - Early Planted Soybean and Weed Control

**Kiersten Wise**  
University of Kentucky

Topic: It's always something! New corn disease concerns for Kentucky

# Community Assessment Survey

Come join us at the Georgetown TSC storefront on December 15th from 11am-1pm for a **FREE LUNCH** and information on Extension and 4-H!



## LET'S GO TO ITALY

July 2025

Informational Meeting on

12

12

23

Join us for a sustainable agriculture trip to Italy in July of 2025. We will be hosting an informational meeting on December 12th at the Scott County Extension Office at 6pm. Must use QR code to RSVP!



To register and/or sign up for more information scan the QR Code below



# MANAGING CATTLE IN CONFINEMENT CONFERENCE

DECEMBER 14, 2023  
HARDIN COUNTY  
EXTENSION OFFICE

2:30 ET - 8:30ET

CAIP  
Eligible

 Martin-Gatton  
College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment  
University of Kentucky



## TOPICS

- Moving to Confinement: Challenges & Opportunities
- Managing Nutrient Resources
- Confinement Facility Options and Considerations
- Economic Considerations for Confinement Facilities
- Producer Panel

## REGISTER NOW:

- Register via the QR code
- Early registration until December 6. \$15
- Late registration \$20
- Registration includes Dinner

A night of fellowship with beef producers. Not a member? You can join and pay your dues at the door!

# Scott County Beef Improvement Annual Meeting

Thursday, January 4th at 6pm, at the Scott County  
Extension Office, 1130 Cincinnati Rd. Georgetown, KY.  
RSVP to the Scott County Extension Office at  
502-863-0984 before December 22nd.

CAIP  
Eligible



For any questions email  
maggie.ginn@uky.edu



## UK Beef Management Webinar Series

Registration is necessary, however, if you received this email directly from Darrh Bullock then you are already registered. If you received this from another source, or have not registered previously, then please send an email to [dbullock@uky.edu](mailto:dbullock@uky.edu) with Beef Webinar in the subject line and your name and county in the message. You will receive the direct link with a password the morning of each meeting. This invitation will directly link you to the site and you will be asked for the password which can be found just below the link. Each session will be recorded and posted for later viewing. All meeting times are 8:00pm ET/7:00pm CT.

CAIP  
Eligible

December 12, 2023

**Shooting the Bull: Answering all your Beef Related Questions!** – Updates and Roundtable discussion with UK Specialists

January 9, 2024

**Management decisions that impact reproductive efficiency in beef herds** – George Perry, Professor, Texas A&M University

February 13, 2024

**What's the Cost of a Cheap Mineral** – Katie VanValin, Assistant Extension Professor, University of Kentucky