### MADISON COUNTY AGRICULTURE NEWSLETTER



# **March 2025**



### WINTER MEETING AT THE MADISON COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

# Beef Cattle Market Update and Outlook and Grazing Economics Meeting

#### March 18th at 6:00 pm, Madison County Extension Office

Make plans to attend the final meeting in our series of Extension Ag meetings for this winter here at the Madison County Extension Office.

UK Extension Livestock Economist, Dr. Kenny Burdine will provide a beef cattle market update and outlook.

Dr. Greg Halich, UK Extension Livestock/Forages and Grain Crops Management Specialist, will discuss the economics of overstocking and summer bale grazing as a way to rest pastures.

The meeting will take place on Tuesday March 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm at the Madison County Extension Office Annex building. This meeting will qualify for CAIP education credit.

A meal will be served. Please call us at the Extension Office, 859-623-4072 to reserve your spot.

### This meeting qualifies for the CAIP Educational Credit





Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture,

## **MEET CONNOR GETTMAN!**

I am excited to introduce myself as Madison County's Extension Assistant for Agriculture and Horticulture.

In my younger years, I spent much of my time playing football, basketball, and participating in track and field. But beyond sports, my passion for the outdoors was always strong—when I wasn't training or in school, I was often hunting or fishing.

After high school, I attended Bakersfield Community College before discovering Eastern Kentucky University.

I moved to Kentucky in the summer of 2021 to continue my education. In 2023, I received my bachelor's

degree in Agribusiness from Eastern Kentucky University

I am thrilled to be serving my community, combining my love for agriculture with my desire to help our community thrive.



Brankon Sears

Brandon Sears County Extension Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources 859-623-4072 <u>brandon.sears@uky.edu</u>

#### 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

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# **PLACEMENTS BELOW EXPECTATIONS IN JANUARY**

# **CATTLE-ON-FEED REPORT**

According to the January Cattle on Feed report, on-feed inventory to start the year was estimated at a little over 11.8 million head, which is down by just under 1% from January of 2024. Despite the fact that feeder cattle supplies have been lower, feedlot inventories ran above year-ago levels for eight of twelve months in 2024 as lower feed prices encouraged longer feeding times. While I don't want to read too much into it, this was the largest year-over-year decline since May.

Placements were once again the headliner of the report as they came in below, and outside the range of pre-report estimates. December 2024 placements were estimated at 1.64 million, which was 3.3% below December 2023. On the surface, this seemed logical as December represented a full month of not receiving live cattle imports from Mexico. This also marked the second month in a row with placement levels being more than 3% below year-ago.

The report was also a quarterly cattle-on-feed report, which means it included an estimate of the steer / heifer breakdown. In the absence of a July cattle inventory report, this has been one of the main indicators economists have been tracking for evidence of heifer retention. Heifers accounted for 38.7% of total on-feed inventory on January 1, 2025. While this doesn't speak to retention, it is worth noting that this is about 1% lower than last January and 1% lower than October 2024. So, it does bear watching as we move further into 2025. Again, I think imports from Mexico had some impact here as heifers had represented a higher than usual share of imports prior to the ban in late November.

While beef cow slaughter was down sharply for 2024, most are still expecting continued decreases in beef cattle numbers at the national level. Given the favorable price outlook for calves, I think heifer retention is very possible in 2025 if weather is cooperative. But I also think this will be a relatively slow cow-herd expansion once retention does begin. (Source: Dr. Kenny Burdine, University of Kentucky)

# **RINSE N RETURN PROGRAM**

# The Rinse N Return Program drop off will be on August 28, 2025 at Southern States Cooperative in Richmond, Kentucky from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm Eastern time.

The Rinse and Return Program is a voluntary, cooperative program sponsored by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and the Agri-Business Association of Kentucky (ABAK). Other partners include the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, which helps coordinate the Program on a county level, Farm Bureau, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service and the local conservation districts, and the Ag Container Recycling Council.

#### **Pressure Rinsing**

- Remove cover from container. Empty pesticide into the spray tank and let container drain for 30 seconds.
- Continue holding container upside down over the sprayer tank opening so rinsate will run into the sprayer tank.
- Insert the pressure-rinse nozzle by puncturing through the bottom of the pesticide container.
- Rinse for length of time recommended by the manufacturer (generally 30 seconds or more).

#### **Triple Rinsing**

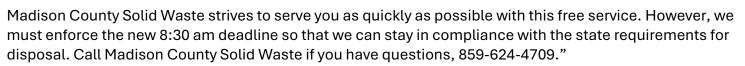
- Remove cover from container. Empty pesticide into the spray tank and let the container drain for 30 seconds.
- Fill the container 10% to 20% full of water or rinse solution.
- Secure the cover on the container.
- Swirl the container to rinse all inside surfaces.
- Remove cover from container. Add rinsate from the container to sprayer tank and let drain 30 seconds or more.
- Repeat steps 2 through 5 two more times.
- Puncture container.

**SOIL TESTING IS FREE!** Madison County Cooperative Extension Service continues to offer free soil testing year round. We need at least <u>two cups</u> of dry soil to run a test. If you have question on how to collect your samples, call 859-623-4072. Agricultural and horticultural samples **from Madison County residents** will be accepted. <u>There is a 10</u> sample limit per farm or home per calendar year! We would like to thank our sponsors: Madison County Extension District Board and Madison County Conservation District

# **ATTENTION ALL FARMERS: DEAD ANIMAL REMOVAL PROGRAM UPDATE**

Please read the following information provided by Scott Shepherd, Madison County Solid Waste Coordinator:

**"Effective March 3, 2025**, all <u>same day dead animal requests</u> for the Solid Waste Dead Livestock Removal Program, **must be called in to Madison County Solid Waste at 859-624-4709 by** <u>8:30 am</u> (Monday – Friday) or the pick-up will be delayed to the next business day, due to the strict restrictions of the Blue Ridge Landfill.



# FORAGE TIMELY TIPS: MARCH 2025

- Sign up for a KY Grazing or Fencing School
- Continue pasture renovation by no-tilling seeding legumes.
- Place small seed at 1/4 to 1/2 inch deep and check depth several times during planting; slow down for more precise seeding.
- Continue feeding hay until adequate forage exists in the pasture for grazing
- Spring seeding of grasses should be done in early to mid-March (but fall is preferred)
- Begin smoothing and re-seeding hay feeding and heavy traffic areas
- Graze pastures overseeded with clover to reduce competition from existing grasses but pull off before grazing new clover plants.
- Provide free choice high-magnesium mineral to prevent grass tetany on lush spring growth.
- Early March is an ideal time to control many broadleaf weeds including: buttercup, poison hemlock, chicory, dock, and biennial thistles.

# PUBLICATIONS HIGHLIGHT: BROADLEAF WEEDS OF KENTUCKY PASTURES AGR-207

One of the most comprehensive yet concise weed publications in the country is Dr. J.D. Green's two-page publication "Broadleaf Weeds of KY Pastures." Dr. Green made sure to update this pub before retiring last summer. One side has photos of the major weeds and the other side lists the weeds with the products that are most effective controlling them. He also indicates the time of the year that's best to spray. And early March is the best time for many problem weeds like buttercup and poison hemlock. Dr. Green even included a rating of how



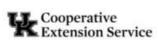
# Broadleaf Weeds of Kentucky Pastures

J.D. Green, Plant and Soil Sciences



effective mowing is to control certain weeds. Go to this pub on the Forage Website or the direct link is <u>http://</u>www2.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/AGR/AGR207/AGR207.pdf

For a more detailed weed control publication, including information on each product, withholding periods and application rates, go to "Weed Management in Grass Pastures, Hayfields, and Other Farmstead Sites AGR-172".







### VOLUNTEER AT 4-H CAMP

#### Who can Volunteer?

Anyone ages 16-116 by the first day of camp (June 23rd, 2025).

Junior Counselors (16-17) get around 100 service hours!

Adults (18+) get a very rewarding week and an opportunity to be a good example in the lives of young people!

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opportunity provider s material was funder

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#### Contact Us

Email Julia for a camp counselor application!

- 5596234072
- ~ julia.reid@uky.edu
- 0 230 Duncannon Lane Richmond, KY 40475



Camp Applications will be available starting March 3rd! Camp Fees:

Early Bird (March 3rd-14th): \$250 Regular rate (March 15-May16th): \$275 Late Fee (After May 16th): \$300 Applications will only be available in paper form this year, no online registrations! If you would like an application mailed to

you, please email Casey your mailing address and camper('s) age(s). casey.faulkner@uky.edu

#### If you would like to make a tax-deductible

contribution to sponsor a child, 4-H gives out \$100 scholarships to families who need it! You can stop by and write a check, or mail one to Madison County 4-H, 230 Duncannon Lane Richmond, KY 40475! Check payable to Madison County 4-H



#### **Oven-Fried Fish Fillets**

• 1 pound fish fillets 2 tablespoons lemon juice

• ¼ teaspoon pepper

- cereal, crushed
- **Oven-Fried**

Wild

**Fish Fillets** 

University of Kentucky

ge of Agriculture and Environmen

ook

KENTUCKY

• 2 tablespoons vegetable oil % cup shredded parmesan cheese • ¼ teaspoon dill weed

• ¼ teaspoon salt

2 cups cornflake-type

a separate small bowl, mix Parmesan cheese, dill weed, salt, and pepper. Dip each fillet into lemon juice mixture. Lay in baking dish, sprinkle with cheese mixture, and coat with crushed cereal. Bake uncovered for 20 to 30 minutes or until fish flakes easily.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Grease a 13x9

baking dish. Cut fillets into

serving pieces, if necessary. In

a small bowl, combine lemon

juice and vegetable oil. In

#### Yield: 4 servings

Adapted from "Fish and Game Cookbook" by Bonnie Scott, Copyright 2013, Bonnie Scott

Amount per serving	
Calories	200
%	Daily Value
Total Fat 6g	8%
Saturated Fat 1g	5%
Trans Fat 0g	
Cholesterol 80mg	27%
Sodium 330mg	14%
Total Carbohydrate 12g	4%
Dietary Fiber 0g	0%
Total Sugars 1g	
Includes 0g Added Sug	ars 0%
Protein 24g	
Vitamin D 1mcg	6%
Calcium 97mg	8%
Iron 6mg	35%
Potassium 449mg	10%

#### MADISON COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Madison County Beekeepers Association next meeting is planned for March 24, 6:00 pm, Madison County Extension Office. For info, call Kent, 859-623-3576 or Paul, 859-582-6172.



### PLATE IT UP! KENTUCKY PROUD!

Whatever the season, Plate It Up with delicious recipes that put a new twist on your favorite Kentucky Proud foods. Visit http://fcshes.ca.uky.edu/piukp-recipes to find all the Plate It Up recipes using Kentucky Proud products.