

PLOWING AHEAD

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

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 18th 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

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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Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.



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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.



Brandon Sears

Brandon Sears

County Extension Agent
for Agriculture & Natural Resources

859-623-4072 brandon.sears@uky.edu

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 two cups 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. **There is a 10 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 same day dead animal requests for the Solid Waste Dead Livestock Removal Program, **must be called in to Madison County Solid Waste at 859-624-4709 by 8:30 am** (Monday – Friday) or the pick-up will be delayed to the next business day, due to the strict restrictions of the Blue Ridge Landfill.



Madison County Solid Waste strives to serve you as quickly as possible with this free service. However, we must enforce the new 8:30 am deadline so that we can stay in compliance with the state requirements for disposal. Call Madison County Solid Waste if you have questions, 859-624-4709.”

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

AGR-207

Broadleaf Weeds of Kentucky Pastures

J.D. Green, Plant and Soil Sciences



Spiny Amaranth



Buttercup



Cocklebur



Horsenettle



Tall Ironweed




Hemp Dogbane



Poison Hemlock



Marshelder

 Cooperative Extension Service

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!

Contact Us

Email Julia for a camp counselor application!

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

Madison County 4-H

SUMMER CAMP

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

Early Bird (March 3rd-14th): \$250
 Regular rate (March 15-May 10th): \$275
 Late Fee (After May 10th): \$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

Oven-Fried Fish Fillets

- 1 pound fish fillets
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- ¼ cup shredded parmesan cheese
- ¼ teaspoon dill weed
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- 2 cups cornflake-type cereal, crushed

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 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.

Yield: 4 servings

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

| Nutrition Facts | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| 4 servings per container | |
| Serving size 4 ounces (110g) | |
| Amount per serving | 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 Sugars | 0% |
| Protein 24g | |
| Vitamin D 1mcg | 6% |
| Calcium 97mg | 8% |
| Iron 6mg | 35% |
| Potassium 449mg | 10% |

* The % Daily Value (DV) tells you how much a nutrient in a serving of food contributes to a daily diet. 2,000 calories a day is used for general nutrition advice.



This institution is an equal opportunity provider. This material was funded by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - SNAP.



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

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://fcs-hes.ca.uky.edu/piukp-recipes> to find all the Plate It Up recipes using Kentucky Proud products.