

The Mason County mAGazine

A Monthly Agricultural Newsletter



IN THIS ISSUE:

A NOTE FROM YOUR AGENT

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Hello all,

Timely Tips

Finally, it's February! I think we can all agree that we're glad January is behind us, and Spring is finally within reach. As we brave the mud and cold in the coming weeks, remember: warmer days are just around the corner!

Forage Update

We've got a lot of exciting programs lined up over the next few months, covering a variety of topics. I encourage each of you to take full advantage of these opportunities to grow, learn, and connect with the resources available through the Extension Office.

CAIP Updates

Stay tuned for all the latest news and programs!

Upcoming Programs

Audrey Wright

Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent
Mason County Extension

Plant Order Form



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TIMELY TIPS

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

Spring Calving Herd

- Study the performance of last year's calf crop and plan for improvement. Plan your breeding program and consider a better herd sire(s). Select herd sires which will allow you to meet your goals and be willing to pay for superior animals.
- Consider vaccinating the cows to help prevent calf scours.
- Keep replacement heifers gaining to increase the probability of puberty occurring before the start of the spring breeding season.
- Start cows on the high magnesium mineral supplement soon. Consider protein supplementation if hay is less than 10% crude protein. If cows are thin, begin energy (grain) supplementation now. Cows must reach a body condition score of 5 before calving to maximize their opportunity for reproductive success. Supplementation now allows adequate time for cows to calving in adequate body condition score.
- Get ready for the calving season! See that all equipment and materials are ready, including obstetrical equipment, record forms or booklets, ear tags, scales for obtaining birthweights, etc. Prepare a calving area where assistance can be provided easily if needed. Purchase ear tags for calves and number them ahead of time if possible. Plan for enough labor to watch/assist during the calving period.
- Move early-calving heifers and cows to pastures that are relatively small and easily accessible to facilities in case calving assistance is needed. Keep them in good condition but don't overfeed them at this time. Increase their nutrient intake after they calve.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Fall Calving Herd

- Provide clean windbreaks and shelter for young calves.
- Breeding season continues. Keep fall calving cows on accumulated pasture as long as possible, then start feeding hay/grain/supplement. Don't let these cows lose body condition!
- Catch up on castrating, dehorning and implanting.

General

- Feed hay in areas where mud is less of a problem. Consider preparing a feeding area with gravel over geotextile fabric or maybe a concrete feeding pad. Bale grazing is an option for producers to help control mud while spreading nutrients across pastures.
- Increase feed as the temperature drops, especially when the weather is extremely cold and damp. When temperature drops to 15°F, cattle need access to windbreaks.
- Provide water at all times. Cattle need 5 to 11 gallons per head daily even in the coldest weather. Be aware of frozen pond hazards. Keep ice "broken" so that cattle won't walk out on the pond trying to get water. Automatic waterers, even the "frost-free" or "energy-free" waterers can freeze up in extremely cold weather. Watch closely.
- Consider renovating and improving pastures with legumes, especially if they have poor stands of grass or if they contain high levels of the fescue endophyte. Purchase seed and get equipment ready this month.

HAY QUALITY LOWER IN 2024

DR. CHRIS TEUTSCH, FORAGE EXTENSION, UK GRAIN AND FORAGE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE AT PRINCETON

New Year's Resolution: Improve Hay Quality in 2025

- A good New Year's Resolution for 2025 would be to improve hay quality! Making just a few small tweaks to your hay production program can make a big difference in hay quality. Below is a short list of things that you can implement to improve hay quality and production on your farm.
- Fertilize and lime according to soil test. A balanced fertility program is essential for optimizing hay yield and quality. Phosphorus, potassium, and lime should be applied according to soil test results. Avoid using "complete" fertilizers such as 10-10-10. These fertilizers commonly over apply phosphorus and under apply potash.
- Apply nitrogen early to promote rapid spring growth. Applying 80 lb N/A in mid- to late March will promote early growth in hay meadows, resulting in higher first harvest yields with improved crude protein values. Recent research at the University of Kentucky has shown that fall nitrogen fertilization promotes hay growth in the spring. In fact, 80 lb N/A applied in the fall was equivalent to more than 100 lb N/A applied in the spring.

- Harvest at the boot stage. The single most important factor impacting forage quality is stage of maturity at harvest. Hayfields should be mowed as soon as the grass reaches the late boot-stage. The boot stage occurs when the sheath of the flag leaf swells just prior to the emergence of the seed head. By making the first cutting in a timely manner, we will have time to make a leafy second cutting just prior to the summer months.
- Mow early in day. Some studies have shown that sugars tend to be highest in late afternoon, making this the optimal time of day to cut. However, in high rainfall environment like Kentucky, maximizing curing time is the highest priority. Therefore, hay should be mowed in mid to late morning after the dew has dried off.
- Use mower-conditioner. Conditioning the stems allows moisture to escape at a faster rate. This shortens curing time and improves your chances of avoiding rain. Conditioning is especially important for first cutting grasses, summer annual grasses, and legumes, all of which tend to have larger stems.
- Set swath on mower-conditioner to the widest possible setting. Maximizing the swath width decreases curing or wilting time by exposing a larger portion of the forage to direct sunlight.
- Rake or ted at 40-50% moisture content. Raking and tedding the forage while it is still pliable helps to reduce leaf loss and maintain forage quality. Once the moisture content is below 40%, leaf loss increases, especially in 1
- Legumes such as alfalfa and clover.
- Bale at 18-20% moisture. Baling in this moisture range inhibits mold growth and reduces heating. Avoid baling hay that is excessively dry due to high levels of leaf loss and hay that is above 20% moisture due to heating and potential hay fires.
- Store dry hay under cover and off the ground. Protecting hay from weathering helps to reduce dry matter losses and maintain forage quality. Much of the weathering damage is a result of the hay bale wicking moisture up from the ground. So, storing hay off the ground can greatly reduce deterioration.
- Consider using baleage. The biggest advantage of baleage is the shortened period between mowing and baling. In many cases, hay can be mowed one day and baled the next. This facilitates harvesting hay at the correct stage of growth, the NUMBER ONE factor impacting forage quality. To learn more about baleage see AGR-235 Baleage: Frequently Asked Questions.

IF YOU NEED HELP WITH HAY SAMPLING OR INTERPRETING YOUR HAY TESTING RESULTS, MAKE SURE AND CONTACT YOUR LOCAL EXTENSION AGENT.

MASON COUNTY CAIP

County Agricultural Investment Program (2024 Program Year)

CAIP offers 11 investment areas that provide agricultural producers cost-share assistance for practices that increase net farm income, and provide opportunities to try new and innovative technologies to improve farm efficiency and productivity. Cost share reimbursement from 25% to 75%, based on the nature of eligible expenses, up to \$3,000.

APPLICATION WINDOW January 24 – February 14, 2025

Applications will not be accepted after the close of business on Feb. 14.

One application per household. One application per Farm Serial Number. Awarded funds must be used in Mason County. Applicants must be Kentucky residents at least 18 years of age, have a Social Security Number and a Farm Serial Number, and have a Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Act (AWQA) Plan. Proof of residency must be presented with application, including a Kentucky driver's license or photo ID AND a utility bill with an address matching the one on the ID.

Application forms will be made available beginning Friday, January 24, at the Mason County Conservation District office, 1925 Old Main Street, Maysville. The District's business hours are 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday. You may also contact the District to have an application emailed to you.

All completed applications and proof of residency must be submitted to the Conservation District office (Applications are no longer being taken at the Mason County Extension Service office).

PROGRAM INFORMATION MEETINGS

Kick-off meetings will be held Friday, January 24, at the Mason County Extension Service Building, 800 US 68, Maysville. Available meeting times are 10 AM and 6 PM. Attendance is not required, but can improve an applicant's chance for approval.



**Mason Co. Conservation District
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR
1925 Old Main Street, Maysville
(606) 759-5570 Ext. 3
mccdistrict@gmail.com**

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

 Cooperative
Extension Service

AGRONOMY DAY

FEBRUARY 12, 2025

9:00AM-3:00PM

AT MASON COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

FREE TO ATTEND!
REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY:
FEBRUARY 7th

TOPICS

(In no particular order)

- PESTICIDE UPDATES & DRONE APPLICATIONS
- WEED CONTROL IN GRAIN CROPS
- PESTICIDE APPLICATION EQUIPMENT & PROPER USE
- SOIL FERTILITY & DIFFERENCES IN LAB RESULTS
- CONTROL OF INVASIVES
- APPLYING PESTICIDES/PRIVATE APPLICATOR CERTIFICATION

CEUs pending approval

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

LUNCH PROVIDED



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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University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.
Lexington, KY 40506



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with prior notification.

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



Bee School

Hosted by The Appalachian Beekeepers Association of Rowan Co.

**Saturday, February 22 | 8am-4pm | MCTC Maysville
1755 US Highway 68, Maysville**

A full day of informative and instructional events from several well-known speakers with 100+ years of beekeeping experience. Session topics include: *New to Beekeeping, Honey Production, Hive Winter Preparation, Making Splits*, and more! Vendors will also be offering deals on a variety of products, taking orders for bees, and contributing to giveaways & door prizes.

Cost: \$20 per family

Registration Opens at 8am | First Session at 9am

For more info, contact:

Tim Black - (606) 548-1433

Paula Coss - (502) 604-0210

Jim Coss - (606) 207-7785

The Appalachian Beekeepers Association of Rowan Co. is a non-profit organization located in Rowan County, KY. The association hosts monthly meetings the first Weds. of every month at 6pm inside the Richardson Horse Show Arena located on the Morehead State University Farm off of KY-377. The group is open to all applicants wishing to join and learn more about honeybees and beekeeping.



**WORKFORCE
SOLUTIONS**

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.

Cooperative Extension Service

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

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS



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)

REGISTER HERE



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4-H Youth Development

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TOBACCO GAP TRAINING

 Cooperative Extension Service



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

****BE SURE TO BRING YOUR TOBACCO GAP CARD WITH YOU****

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Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

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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:

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- LEWIS COUNTY: (606) 796-2732
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4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

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Accessibility accommodations available upon request.

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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
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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

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
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REGISTER BY: FEBRUARY 14TH

**Cooperative
Extension Service**

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

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UK Cooperative
Extension Service

CATTLE GRADING



6:00PM

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



CAIP EDUCATION
ELIGIBLE

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

**Cooperative
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4-H Youth 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

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

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Broccoli and Beef Stir-Fry



- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 pound lean beef steak, sliced diagonally across the grain into thin strips | 4 tablespoons canola oil, divided | squash, cut into ¼ inch slices |
| 1 tablespoon plus ½ cup stir-fry sauce | 1 medium red onion, cut into ½ inch dice | 2 cups fresh broccoli florets |
| 1 clove minced garlic | 1 sweet red pepper, cut into ½ inch dice | 1 cup cauliflower florets |
| | 1 medium yellow | ½ teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes |

- Combine** 1 tablespoon stir-fry sauce and minced garlic in a bowl. **Add** the beef strips. Let stand 15 minutes.
- Heat** 1 tablespoon canola oil in a large skillet or wok.
- Add** beef and stir fry for one minute. **Remove** beef from skillet.
- Heat** the remaining 3 tablespoons canola oil in the skillet or wok. **Add** vegetables. **Stir-fry** for four minutes or until vegetables are crisp-tender.
- Return** beef to skillet.
- Add** the remaining ½ cup stir-fry sauce and red pepper flakes. **Cook** and stir 1 to 2 minutes longer, until heated through.

Yield: 8, 1 cup servings
Nutrition Analysis: 180 calories; 10 g fat; 1.5 g saturated fat; 0 g trans fat; 25 mg cholesterol; 630 mg sodium; 9 g carbohydrate; 2 g fiber; 3 g sugar; 15 g protein.
 90% recommended allowance for vitamin C.

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



Kentucky Broccoli

SEASON: May through early July; October through mid-November

NUTRITION FACTS: Broccoli is a good source of vitamin A, vitamin C, and phytochemicals, all of which have health benefits.

SELECTION: Choose tender, young, dark green stalks with tightly closed buds. One-and-a-half pounds of broccoli will yield 4, ½ cup servings.

STORAGE: Store broccoli, unwashed, no longer than 3 to 5 days in a perforated plastic bag in the refrigerator. Wash broccoli just before using.

PREPARATION: Wash broccoli under cold running water. Trim the leaves and peel the stalk.

To steam: Place on a rack above boiling water and steam 6 to 8 minutes. Rinse with cold water

Source: www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov

and drain.

To boil: Place in a saucepan with 1 inch boiling water and ½ teaspoon salt. Cover and cook 5-7 minutes.

To microwave: Place broccoli in a microwave-safe dish. Add 1 inch water and cover with a glass lid or plastic wrap. Microwave 3 to 4 minutes or until crisp-tender.

BROCCOLI

Kentucky Proud Project

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

March 2011

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





UK Cooperative
Extension Service
MASON COUNTY
EXTENSION OFFICE
PLANT ORDER
2025



All plant orders due February 14th

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____



Item	Quantity (bundle of 25 plants)	Unit Price	Total Price
Seascape Strawberries		\$8.00	
Earliglow Strawberries		\$8.00	
Flavorfest Strawberries		\$8.00	

**** IF ORDERING BLUEBERRIES, IT IS RECOMMENDED TO PURCHASE TWO DIFFERENT VARIETIES FOR POLLINATION****

Item	Quantity (per plant/crown)	Unit Price	Total
Jewel Black Raspberry		\$13.00	
Chandler Blueberry		\$13.00	
Duke Blueberry		\$13.00	
Triple Crown Blackberry		\$13.00	
Marge Elderberry		\$13.00	
Hinnomaki Red Gooseberry		13.00	
Jersey Knight Asparagus		\$2.00	
		Total Due	

Orders payment is required by February 14th, 2025

Make checks payable to: Mason County Extension Office

Taxes included in price

Payment Information:
Amount Paid: _____
Date: _____
Received by: _____
Check no. _____ or Cash _____

**WE WILL CONTACT YOU WHEN ORDERS ARE READY FOR PICK-UP.
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CALL (606) 564-6808**

IMPORTANT DATES

February 12	Agronomy Day + Private Pesticide Cert 9AM-3PM Mason Co Extension Office
February 17	Private Applicator Training 5-8 PM Mason County Extension Office
February 24	BQCA Training 5-6:30PM Mason County Extension Office
February 25	Homesteading Series Meat Cutting 6:00 Mason County Extension Office
February 27	Private Applicator Training 8-11 AM Mason County Extension Office
February 28	Kentucky Beef Expo February 28 -March 1 Louisville, KY
March 8	Apple Grafting/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
April 14	BQCA Training 5-6:30PM 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



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

Mason County
800 US HWY 68
Maysville, KY 41056
Return Service
Requested

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Standard
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Maysville, KY
Permit 10