



# The Mason County mAGazine

A Monthly Agricultural Newsletter



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## A NOTE FROM YOUR AGENT

Hello all,

As we move into the heart of summer, Mason County's farms, gardens, and pastures are buzzing with activity! Whether you're knee-deep in hay season or tending to your tomato plants—there is no shortage of work!

We intentionally keep programming light during the summer to give our producers time to be in the field doing what they do best—farming! That said, there are still great opportunities to stay connected. The LIA Show and Sale is happening this month, and it's a wonderful way to support the hardworking youth of Mason County. Come out and cheer them on if you're able!

As always, don't hesitate to reach out if there's anything I can help with. Wishing you a safe, productive—and cool—July!

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](mailto:AUDREY.WRIGHT@UKY.EDU)



### ☀ 6 Months In: A Note from Your ANR Agent

It's hard to believe it's already been six months since I started as your Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent here in Mason County! In that time, I've learned an incredible amount and have had the chance to meet some truly amazing people in the county.



When I first started, the thought of analyzing a soil test and making recommendations felt overwhelming- but fast forward six months, and I've written over 300 soil recommendations! There have certainly been moments when I've had to answer a question with, "I don't know," but thankfully, I've always had someone's phone number who does know.

I've had the opportunity to BQCA train numerous Mason County residents, including many students in our school system, and I've worked with several producers to help them renew their Private Pesticide Applicator Licenses for another three years. One thing that has kept me on my toes was learning the County Agricultural Investment Program (CAIP)- it felt like learning a whole new language at first, but I am slowly getting the hang of it and trying to answer questions as best I can.

I've worked a lot with the Ag and Natural Resources agents across the Buffalo Trace Area, and I can't say enough good things about the group I've been welcomed into. Together, we've hosted a homesteading series, a successful hay production field day, a small ruminant workshop, and much more.

This has been the busiest- but by far the most rewarding- six months, and I'm truly grateful to be here. I look forward to the months and years ahead, continuing to serve Mason County!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Audrey Wright".

Audrey Wright  
Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent  
Mason County Extension

# CHUTESIDE CATTLE PREGNANCY TESTING WORKSHOP



Martin-Gatton  
College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment

## WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

How utilizing on farm pregnancy tests can benefit your operation

Types of chuteside tests that are available to you

Hands on step by step instructions for using the tests



## REGISTER HERE:



Dr. Les Anderson will lead some hands on demonstrations and discuss the importance of pregnancy checking your herd

# SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

6:00 | 7580 TAYLOR MILL RD, MAYSVILLE, KY 41056

SCAN THE QR CODE OR CALL THE OFFICE AT (606)564-6808 TO REGISTER!

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are on the basis  
pregnancy, marital  
age



Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.

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# Mason Co. Conservation District

# SHARED-USE

## EQUIPMENT



GREAT PLAINS 1006NT DRILL



INLINE WRAPPER HYBRID X

For rental information, contact the district office (606)759-5570 Ext. 3



# HAY TESTING

The Mason County Extension Office now has a hay probe available to check out at the office to help producers collect hay samples for lab analysis.

## WHY TEST YOUR FORAGE?

- Tested forages can mean higher profit, whether feeding cattle, horses, goats, sheep or other livestock. Knowing the nutritional value will help you minimize your cost and maximize your production.
- The analysis report, assists producers in balancing feed rations for their livestock. Each livestock species take a different energy level at different stages of their lives. A ration balance will help maintain a healthy diet.
- Forage testing helps determine fair market value and establish an equitable price for forage sales.
- Buying or Selling Hay: The Forage Testing Program maintains a list of Kentucky hay producers that have their hay tested through KDA. The service is offered throughout the state and the information may be viewed on this KDA “Forage Sales Directory/Tested Hay” webpage.

Contact me if you have any questions or to learn more about submitting samples for analysis!

**\*\*If you would like to have samples taken for the East KY Hay contest, those samples will be taken later in the summer\*\***



scan the QR code  
to register or call  
the office at  
(606)584-6808



# MASON COUNTY *CATTLEMEN'S* ASSOCIATION



## SUMMER MEETING

August 28th | 6:00 PM  
Mason Co Extension Office



The Mason County Cattlemen's Association is calling on local producers and agricultural advocates to join its growing network of cattlemen and women who are working together to strengthen the future of agriculture in Mason County.

With a renewed focus on expanding its membership, the Association is emphasizing the vital role it plays in supporting local producers, promoting agricultural education, and building a stronger rural economy.

The Association offers a variety of benefits to its members. Each meeting includes a free meal, door prizes, and opportunities to hear from agricultural experts on topics ranging from market trends and research updates to local best practices. Members also receive timely industry updates through Cow Country News and enjoy valuable networking with producers, industry leaders, and specialists from across the region.

Educational presentations are a cornerstone of each meeting, focused specifically on the needs and interests of Mason County cattle producers. These sessions aim to equip members with tools and knowledge they can apply directly to their farming operations.

Anyone interested in learning more or becoming a member is encouraged to contact the Mason County Extension Office at (606)564-6808.

## Spring Calving Cows

- Consider removing bulls from the cow herd by the end of the month and keep them away from the cows. A short calving season can concentrate labor during the calving season; group calves by age so that it is easier to find a convenient time to vaccinate, castrate, dehorn, etc.; and provide a more uniform group of calves at market time.
- Mid-July is a good time to deworm cattle, use a product that is effective against inhibited ostertagia. Re-implant calves which were implanted at birth if the type of implant and amount of time indicate. Calves which haven't been vaccinated for blackleg should be. Spraying or using a pour-on for flies while cattle are gathered can supplement other fly control methods. Remember to work cattle early in the morning when it is cool and handle them gently to minimize stress.
- Watch for pinkeye and treat if necessary. Minimize problems by clipping pastures, controlling face flies and providing shade. Monitor the bulls' activity and physical condition as the breeding season winds down.
- Fescue pastures tend to go dormant in July and August, so look for alternatives like warm season grasses during this period of time. Try to keep the young calves gaining weight. Go to pastures which have been cut for hay to have higher quality re-growth when it is available.
- Consider cutting warm season grass pastures for hay if reserves have not been restored yet.
- Heat stress can lead to low conception rates, low libido in bulls, and embryonic loss (abortion) between days 6 and 45 of pregnancy. Keep a close eye on your herd. Plan to diagnose your herd for pregnancy early this fall to identify open cows for future planning. Supplementation with red clover helps alleviate some of the issues with heat stress due to fescue toxicosis.

## Fall Calving Cows

- De-worm calves in mid-July with a product that is effective against inhibited ostertagia.
- Fall-calving cows should be dry and pregnant now. Their nutrient needs are minimal, and they can be maintained on poor pasture to avoid over fattening. Keep a good free-choice mineral mix available at all times. You can use a lower phosphorus mineral supplement now, if you want to save a little money. These cows are regaining body condition after a long winter-feeding period.
- Get ready for fall calving and plan to have good pasture available at calving and through the breeding season.

## General

- Check pastures for downed wild cherry trees after storms (wilted wild cherry leaves are toxic to cattle).
- Be sure that clean water is always available, especially in hot weather. Make routine checks of the water supply. Cattle need 13 to 20 gallons of clean water in hot weather. Cattle should have access to shade.
- Maintain a weed control program in permanent pastures and continue to "spot-spray" thistle, honey locust, etc.
- Have forage analyses conducted on spring-cut hay and have large, round bales covered. Begin planning the winter feeding program now. Most of the hay was cut late due to a wet spring.
- Start soil testing pastures to determine fertilization needs for this fall.
- July is typically dry in Kentucky. Begin planning now for reduced rainfall and forage growth. If the weather dries up, you may need to begin feeding hay/supplement August-October to allow for fall stock piling of fescue.





# *2025 Youth Livestock Premium Auction*

*July 12, 2025 6:00pm*

*Mason County Agritech and Innovation Facility  
6031 KY Hwy 3170, Maysville, KY*

*Come support the area 4-H & FFA youth and their market  
livestock projects they have worked hard with all year!*

*Buyers meal will be provided starting at 5:00*

# Mason County LIA Livestock Show

**July 11th & 12th  
2025**

**Mason • Robertson • Bracken • Fleming • Lewis**

**JUDGE:  
LILLY P'POOL**



## SHOW WILL INCLUDE:

SHOWMANSHIP	RECORD BOOK AWARD
MARKET CLASSES	RATE OF GAIN AWARD
CHAMPION DRIVE	CARCASS MERIT AWARD
SUPREME ANIMAL- SUSAN OWENS AWARD	
HOME GROWN- LARRY PHILLIPS AWARD	
ROUND ROBIN- BILL TOLLE AWARD	
FIRST YEAR SHOWMAN- KEVIN DOYLE AWARD	



# LABOR FOR SMALL FARMS: OVERVIEW & TIPS

Guest Speakers:

**MICHAEL BAYER &  
DR. KIMBERLY MORGAN**

Labor Experts from the University of Florida IFAS

## Key Discussions & Insights:

- 2025 Labor landscape overview ●
- Evaluating the cost and process ●
- When does hiring labor make sense? ●
- Specific requirements for shared guest worker contracts ●

6:30 – 8:00 PM EST 

JUL 14, 2025 

VIA ZOOM 



**You MUST Register @**  
<https://ccd.uky.edu/events>  
or scan the QR code



# UPCOMING PROGRAMS



## KENTUCKY FARM SUCCESSION SEMINAR

### BUILDING THE BRIDGE TO YOUR FARM'S FUTURE

JULY 23, 2025  
OWENSBORO CONVENTION CENTER



7:30	Registration
8:15	Opening Remarks
8:30	Building the Bridge to your Farm's Future Aleta Botts
9:00	Farm Succession – Challenges & Opportunities Wesley Tucker
10:30	Break for Networking
10:45	Ten Traits of Top Managers Dr. Steve Isaacs
12:00	Lunch
12:45	Positives of Passing it On! Jolene Brown
2:45	Break for Networking
3:00	Panel of Key Advisors
4:10	Keepers, Appreciation, Celebrations Jolene Brown

Farm businesses are in a constant state of change. Each year farm operators, family, and employees experience changes in age, health, equity, and opportunity costs. Other factors, including interest, taxes, births, deaths, marriage and divorce, can all affect the vitality of a farm business. The Kentucky Farm Succession Seminar looks to bring knowledge of how to handle these changes to make it easier for you and your business. Come and listen to national experts, extension specialists, and local resources discuss these topics and more!



IF YOU WISH TO REGISTER , SCAN THE QR CODE OR COMPLETE AND RETURN THE FORM BELOW

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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Street City State Zip Code

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of People Attending \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Check Amount\* \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Cash Amount\* \_\_\_\_\_

\*\$35 per person, \$40 per person by card with QR code registration

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Lexington, KY 40506





## UPCOMING PROGRAMS



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NATURAL DYE CREATIONS

**FREE**

# Explore Nature's Colors Together

JULY 24TH 12:30PM TO 4:00 PM



## *Hands-on Dyeing Workshop*

Join us for an **eco-friendly**, hands-on experience in creating beautiful dyes from plants. Unleash your **creativity** as you learn sustainable techniques for dyeing scarves or bags using nature's vibrant colors!

Call (606) 564-6808 to RSVP  
Limited Spots

Mason County Cooperative Extension  
800 US Highway 68  
Maysville, KY 41056

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Lexington, KY 40506



MASON COUNTY AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

## Summer Veggie & Wild Rice Bake

1 (6 ounce box) wild rice with herbs and seasoning	1 green pepper, chopped	½ cup coarsely chopped fresh basil
1 tablespoon olive oil	1 medium onion, chopped	2 teaspoons salt
1 medium eggplant, peeled and diced	6 cloves garlic, minced	1 teaspoon pepper
2 yellow squash, cut lengthwise, sliced crosswise	3-5 tomatoes, coarsely chopped	1 cup low fat shredded Italian cheese blend

**Heat** oven to 350 degrees F. **Prepare** wild rice in saucepan according to package directions. **Remove** from heat; **drain** excess water; **stir** in packet seasonings. **Heat** oil to medium high in large skillet. **Add** eggplant, squash, pepper and onion; **stir** and cook 5 minutes or until tender crisp. **Stir** in garlic and cook 1 minute. **Add** tomatoes, basil, salt and pepper; **stir** occasionally and **cook** 2 minutes until heated through. **Stir** in wild rice and spoon into a 9-by-13 inch baking dish

that has been coated with cooking spray. **Top** with cheese and **cover** with aluminum foil. **Bake** 35 minutes or until bubbly. **Uncover** and **bake** an additional 5 minutes.

**Yield:** 16

**Serving Size:** ½ cup

### Nutritional Analysis:

90 calories, 2.5 g fat, 1 g saturated fat, 5 mg cholesterol, 469 mg sodium, 13 g carbohydrate, 2 g fiber, 3 g sugars, 4 g protein.



## Kentucky Eggplant

**SEASON:** Late June to October.

**NUTRITION FACTS:** Eggplant contains small amounts of several important vitamins that are needed daily. It is very low in sodium and calories, with only 15 calories for a half cup serving.

**SELECTION:** Select firm, heavy eggplant with smooth, shiny, deep purple skin. Choose medium size eggplant, about 3 to 4 inches in diameter.

**STORAGE:** Store soon after harvest or purchase in the vegetable crisper in the refrigerator. Use within one week.

**PREPARATION:** Eggplant is a versatile vegetable and can be baked, broiled, grilled, fried,

stuffed or used in a variety of casseroles in combination with other vegetables. It works well with tomatoes, garlic, onions and cheese. One pound equals 3 cups diced. Eggplant should be peeled before preparation, unless it is very young and tender.

**To broil or grill:** Cut into three-fourth inch slices and brush with margarine or Italian dressing. Broil or grill for about 5 minutes on each side, until eggplant is tender and browned. Remove from heat and sprinkle with grated Parmesan cheese.

**To season:** Use marjoram, oregano, allspice, chili powder, curry powder, garlic, basil or rosemary.

### KENTUCKY EGGPLANT

#### Kentucky Proud Project

County Extension Agents for Family and Consumer Sciences

University of Kentucky, Dietetics and Human Nutrition students

July 2016

**Source:** [www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov](http://www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov)

Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers' market, or roadside stand.  
<http://plateitup.ca.uky.edu>





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# IMPORTANT DATES

July 4	Independence Day   Office Closed
July 5	Germantown Lamb and Goat Show   Germantown Fairgrounds
July 11-12	Mason County LIA Show   Mason County Ag Tech Facility
July 19	Germantown Swine Show   Germantown Fairgrounds
July 23	UK Farm Succession Seminar   All Day   Owensboro Convention Center
Aug 4-9	Germantown Fair
Aug 14-24	KY State Fair   Louisville, KY
Aug 28	Mason Co Cattlemen's Meeting   6:00   Mason Co Extension Office 
Sep 1	Labor Day   Office Closed
Sep 9	Pregnancy Testing Program   6:00 PM   7580 Taylor Mill Rd Maysville, KY 
Sep 24	2025 Intermediate Grazing School   7:30-4   Woodford County Extension Office

CAIP Education Eligible 



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