

The Mason County mAGazine

A Monthly Agricultural Newsletter



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A NOTE FROM YOUR AGENT

Hello all,

June has arrived—hay is being cut, tobacco is being set, and the long days are perfect for making progress. When I'm off the clock this month, there's a good chance you'll find me on a setter with good company, solving all the world's problems.

In this month's newsletter, we're recapping the outstanding beef producers we celebrated during Beef Month, highlighting an exciting program for woodland owners, and talking about the importance—and convenience—of hay testing as the season rolls on.

As always, if there's anything I can do to support you, don't hesitate to reach out. I'm here and happy to help however I can.

Audrey Wright

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



BEEF MONTH

PRODUCER SPOTLIGHT

During Beef Month, we celebrated the hardworking cattle producers of Mason County — the men and women who help feed our community and keep our agricultural traditions alive. As part of the celebration, Audrey Wright had the opportunity to visit some outstanding local producers.

Audrey spent time getting to know each of them and learning about how they run their operations. These producers are not only passionate about their work, but they are also incredible role models for the next generation of farmers looking to get started in the beef industry.

Each week in May, a producer was featured on our Facebook and in the The Ledger Independent. Thanks to our friends at the Kentucky Beef Network, each received a small token of appreciation in recognition of their contributions.

The producer spotlights are summarized on the following pages, but be sure to check out our Facebook page or The Ledger Independent to read the full stories.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support Mason County agriculture — especially our beef producers, who lead by example and inspire others every day!



SCOTT PORTER



What started with \$250 in birthday money has grown into one of Mason County's most respected cattle operations. Scott Porter began his farming journey in seventh grade, purchasing three calves and launching a lifelong passion for the cattle industry. Today, he manages a cow-calf operation with over 900 momma cows.

Scott has spent over 30 years in the cattle business, building his farm from the ground up with grit, patience, and a practical, hands-on approach.

Family is central to the operation. His wife, Mary Ann, and their four children are all actively involved, keeping the farm running smoothly and continuing the legacy.

With a deep respect for the land, the animals, and those who mentored him along the way, Scott Porter is now doing the same for the next generation—proving that you don't need to start big to make a big impact.

KEITH STITT



A lifelong farmer, Keith Stitt grew up on his family's dairy farm in Mason County and began milking cows at 14. Today, he manages a 600-acre beef and hay operation alongside his wife, Patty, and son, Bradley.

Keith runs a herd of 120 Angus cows, split between spring and fall calving groups, though he prefers spring calving for its efficiency. He also produces high-quality alfalfa and grass hay, using it to feed his cattle and selling the surplus to diversify his income.

With a humble, no bells and whistles approach, Keith emphasizes consistency, hard work, and strategic thinking—values he believes are essential for young farmers looking to succeed. “Find your market, do it right, and make yourself stand out,” he advises.

JERRY AND RONNIE LOWE



Since starting their farm in 1987, the Lowe brothers have grown their operation from a small dairy with a few beef cows into a thriving, family-run cow-calf operation of over 700 head. In addition to raising cattle, they also grow row crops and provide custom silage services- in total farming over

The Lowe family farms land that's been in their family since the early 1900s, and their operation includes multiple generations. They phased out tobacco in the early 2000s and exited dairy in 2015 to focus fully on beef production. Known for their work ethic and high-quality, homegrown cattle, Ronnie and Jerry have also been leaders in the Mason County Cattlemen's Association, with Ronnie serving as president for nearly 15 years. Audrey noted their ongoing support since she began her role, calling them invaluable mentors. The Lowe brothers exemplify the values of resilience, community service, and dedication to the land.

FOLLOW OUR FACEBOOK!



 Find us on
Facebook



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



**JOIN
NOW**

MASON
COUNTY
CATTLEMEN'S
ASSOCIATION



As a member, you'll enjoy:

- ✓ Meetings that include a free meal and door prizes
- ✓ Up-to-date information on research, markets, and trends delivered to you through Cow Country News
- ✓ Networking with local producers and industry leaders
- ✓ Educational presentations from specialists at every meeting—focused on topics that pertain to Mason County producers



For more information contact:

- ☎ Audrey Wright (606) 564- 6808
- ☎ President Ronnie Lowe (606)782-5058
- ☎ Treasurer Mike Ravencraft (606)584-0310
- ✉ Email: audrey.wright@uky.edu

 Find us on
Facebook



TIMELY TIPS

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

Spring-Calving Cow Herd

- Cows should be on good pasture with clover and preferably low endophyte levels in fescue for the spring breeding season. Keep pastures vegetative by clipping or making hay. They should have abundant shade and water. Our goal is to have cows become pregnant before July when temperatures and heat stress can ruin the “spring” breeding season.
- Observe the cows and bulls as the breeding season continues. Watch bulls for injury or lameness and change bulls if a high percentage of cows are returning to heat. Record cow breeding dates to determine next year’s calving dates and keep records of cows and bulls in each breeding group.
- Keep a good pasture mineral mix, which contains adequate levels of phosphorus, vitamin A, selenium, and copper, available.
- Consider a devoted area for creep grazing calves, or practice “forward grazing” this summer, allowing calves to graze fresh pasture ahead of the cows. This can be accomplished by raising an electric wire or building a creep gate.

Fall-Calving Herd

- Pregnancy test cows if not done previously.
- Cull cows at weaning time
 - Smooth-mouthed cows
 - Cows weaning light weight and/or poor-quality calves
 - Open cows
 - “Problem cows” with bad feet, teats, udders, etc.
- Select replacement heifers based on:
 - temperament
 - conformation
 - weaning weight
 - dam and sire records
 - Select more than needed to allow for culling after a short breeding season

General

- Finish harvesting excess pasture as hay soon! It should be cut before it becomes too mature. Be sure and replenish your reserves. Try to put up more than you think you will need in case of a late summer drought.
- Pasture should supply adequate energy, protein, and vitamins now. However, be prepared for drought situations. Don’t overgraze pastures so that recovery time will be faster. Overgrazed pastures will recover very slowly during July/August.
- Keep pastures small for rotational grazing so that nutritive quality can be maintained. They should be small enough, so cattle do not graze longer than a week. As the season progresses, you need several paddocks to give each properly stocked pasture about 4 weeks’ rest.
- Maintain a clean water supply and check it routinely. Water is extremely important in hot weather.
- Control flies. Consider changing insecticides and/or methods of control this year, because insecticide resistant flies may have developed if you have used the same chemical year after year. Consider pour-on and sprays that allow you to put cattle in the corral or through the chute with little stress on them. It will make subsequent trips through the “chute” less stressful.
- Prevent/Control pinkeye
 - consider vaccinating,
 - control flies,
 - clip tall, mature grass,
 - treat problems quickly.
- Clip grazed-over pastures for weed control and so that seed heads do not irritate eyes. Pastures should be kept in a vegetative state for the best quality.

Broadleaf Weeds of Kentucky Pastures

J.D. Green, Plant and Soil Sciences



Spiny Amaranth



Buttercup



Cocklebur



Horsenettle



Tall Ironweed



Hemp Dogbane



Poison Hemlock



Marshelder



Common Milkweed



Jimsonweed



Sericea Lespedeza



Maypop Passionflower



Buckhorn Plantain



Perilla Mint



Multiflora Rose



Trumpet creeper



Canada Thistle



Common Ragweed



Lanceleaf Ragweed



Wild Carrot



Bull Thistle



Musk Thistle



Curly Dock



Chicory

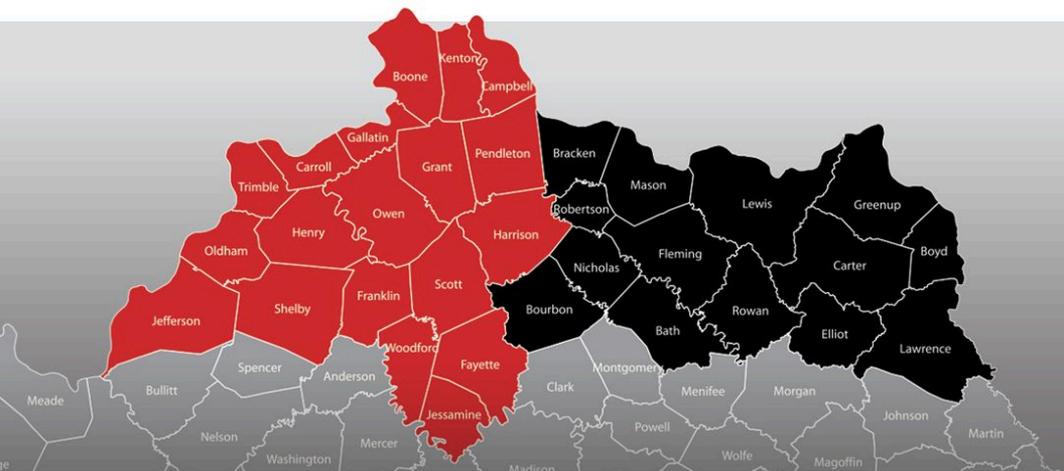
JOIN OUR TEAM



Northcentral
KBN Facilitator



Northeastern
KBN Facilitator



The Kentucky Beef Network is seeking two passionate and motivated individuals to join our team as Facilitators in the Northcentral and Northeast regions of Kentucky.

These positions offer the opportunity to work directly with cattle producers, support on-farm innovation, and help strengthen Kentucky's beef industry.

More information:



Kentucky Woodland Owners Short Course



Beginning June 10 and running through June 26, this Short Course delivers six live weeknight webinars from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Eastern Time. Topics range from tree identification and day-to-day woodland management to forest health, wildlife interactions, timber harvesting and ways Natural Resources Conservation Service programs can bolster both woodland vitality and downstream water quality. Every session is recorded, allowing registrants to revisit the material at their convenience.

“Everyone involved is looking forward to this year’s Short Course,” said Billy Thomas, extension forester with the UK Department of Forestry and Natural Resources. “The online classes tackle the questions woodland owners ask us most often, while the field sessions place them shoulder-to-shoulder with experts who can show practical solutions on the ground.”

After the webinars are completed, instruction then moves from the screen to the woods during two optional field days, the first on July 19 in Whitley County and the second on Aug. 16 in Pendleton County. Each event features a woodland owner farm tour where attendees can observe hands-on management practices and speak directly with forestry, wildlife and conservation professionals. New for 2025 is a Woodland Owner Resource Extravaganza where participants can meaningfully connect with the organizations and agencies who can directly help them with the stewardship of their own property.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
AND TO REGISTER:**



 Cooperative
Extension Service

ELDERBERRY PRODUCTION



June 26



6:00PM



**Fleming County Extension Office
1384 Elizaville Rd, Flemingsburg**

Shawn Wright (UK- Horticulture),
Ali Hulett (Kentucky Center for
Agriculture & Rural Development
(KCAR)) & Thomas Pierce
(KCARD) will be presenting a
program for individuals interested in
learning more agribusiness
planning and elderberry production.

**To register please use the QR
code or call (606) 845-4641.**



An Equal Opportunity Organization

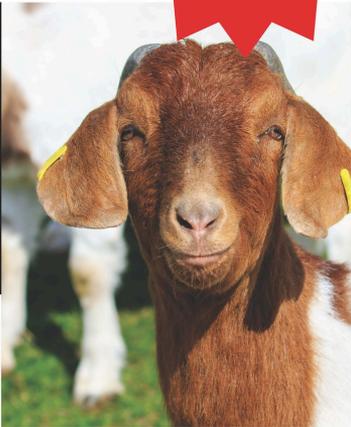


UPCOMING PROGRAMS

 Cooperative
Extension Service

**LIMITED
SPOTS**

SMALL RUMINANT WORKSHOP



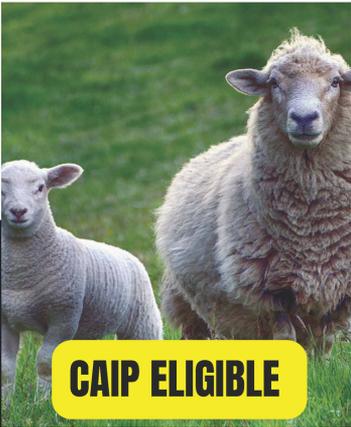
JUNE 7TH, 2025



9:30 AM



**2496 TAYLOR MILL RD
FLEMINGSBURG**



CAIP ELIGIBLE

TOPICS

- Hoof Trimming
- Nutrition/Parasite Control
- Shearing Demo

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

**REGISTER BY
JUNE 2ND**



**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



 Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

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

UPCOMING PROGRAMS



BUY KENTUCKY CATTLE WITH CONFIDENCE

The Kentucky Certified Pre-Conditioned for Health (CPH-45) program was created with the support of Kentucky's 38,000 beef producers generating a proven track record. This premium program has increased the quality and value of Kentucky beef cattle ensuring that CPH-45 calves can be bought with confidence.



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.CPH45.COM

SALE DATES LISTED ON BACK



Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

CHUTESIDE CATTLE PREGNANCY TESTING WORKSHOP

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!

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

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



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.



Triple Berry Crisp

<p>Cooking spray</p> <p>1 1/4 cup fresh blackberries</p> <p>1 1/4 cup fresh blueberries</p> <p>1 1/4 cup fresh strawberries</p>	<p>3 tablespoons white sugar</p> <p>3/4 cup brown sugar</p> <p>1/2 cup flour</p> <p>1/2 cup oats</p>	<p>3/4 teaspoon cinnamon</p> <p>1/2 teaspoon nutmeg</p> <p>1/2 cup butter</p>
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Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Spray the bottom and sides of an 8-by-8 inch baking pan with nonstick cooking spray. **Wash** berries. Do not let berries soak in water. Hull strawberries by removing the stems and green tops. **Place** blueberries, blackberries and strawberries in a mixing bowl. **Sprinkle** berries with white sugar and **stir**. **Set** aside. In a separate, large bowl, **mix** the brown sugar, flour, oats, cinnamon and nutmeg. **Cut** in the butter until crumbly.

Pour berry mixture into baking pan. **Sprinkle** crumbly mixture over the berries. **Bake** for 30 minutes or until the top is golden brown.

Yield: 12, 1/2 cup servings

Nutritional Analysis: 160 calories, 6 g fat, 3.5 g saturated fat, 15 mg cholesterol, 0 mg sodium, 27 g carbohydrate, 3 g fiber, 19 g sugars, 2 g protein



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

Kentucky Blackberries

SEASON: June to September

NUTRITION FACTS: A 1/2 cup serving of raw berries contains 35 calories, has no fat, and is a good source of potassium, vitamin C and fiber.

SELECTION: Look for plump fruit that is uniform in color and appears fresh. Berries should be free of stems or leaves. Avoid moldy, crushed or bruised fruit. Avoid berries that contain extra moisture.

STORAGE: Store unwashed and covered berries in the refrigerator. Use within two days.

PREPARATION: Handle all berries gently. Wash berries by covering them with water and gently lifting the berries out. Remove any stems and drain on a single layer of paper

Source: www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov

towels. Blackberries are delicious cooked, which intensifies the flavor, or eaten fresh as a snack or in a salad.

PRESERVING: Berries may be preserved by canning or freezing. They can be made into jellies or jam. For more information, contact your local County Extension Office.

KENTUCKY BLACKBERRIES

Kentucky Proud Project

County Extension Agents for Family and Consumer Sciences
University of Kentucky, Dietetics and Human
Nutrition students

August 2014

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.uky.edu/ics

COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION
SERVICE



IMPORTANT DATES

June 2	CPH Feeder Calf Sale 11:30 AM Lexington Bluegrass Stockyards
June 7	Small Ruminant Workshop 9:30 AM 2496 Taylor Mill Rd Flemingsburg KY ✓
June 10-26	Kentucky Woodland Short Course 7-8:30 PM webinars Information on pg 11
June 26	Elderberry Production Workshop 6:00 PM Fleming County Extension Office ✓
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
Aug 4-9	Germantown Fair
Aug 14-24	KY State Fair Louisville, KY
Sep 9	Pregnancy Testing Program 6:00 PM 7580 Taylor Mill Rd Maysville, KY 51056 ✓
Sep 24	2025 Intermediate Grazing School 7:30-4 Woodford County Extension Office

CAIP Education Eligible ✓



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

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