

MCCRACKEN AG NEWS



McCracken County's Agriculture and Natural Resources Update

Cooperative Extension
University of Kentucky
McCracken County
2025 New Holt Rd
Paducah, KY 42001
270-554-9520



Meet the ANR Agent

Hello everybody! In case we haven't met, my name is Gracey Moffitt and I am the Ag agent here in McCracken County. I am very blessed to have been chosen to take on this position and I am so excited to see what all the future holds! If you haven't taken it yet, please take my Program Interest Survey! The results from this survey will help me to plan programs. You can find the link on our website.

Gracey Moffitt

Agent Update

Happy Holiday Season! Thanksgiving came in a flash and Christmas is already here!

Harvest season has come to an end after a rather difficult year for farmers between weather events and input prices, but they continued to persevere and for that I am thankful.

November was a busy month between trainings and different programs. I coordinated with Dr. Ellen Crocker our Extension Forest Health Specialist on doing a **Fungi Fiesta: Mushroom Workshop**. We had a great turnout and everyone who came got to leave with their own mushroom grow kit! (as pictured above).

The **Master Cattlemen Series** wrapped up at the beginning of November. We had around 25 farms become Master Cattlemen Certified.

In tune with the fall season, I worked with the **Homeschool 4-H Cloverbuds Club** and the **Hendon-Lone Oak Elementary 21st Century After School Program** to make "Leaf Turkeys" (as pictured above). We talked about how turkeys are different animals than mammals and about some of our trees native to this area.

Everyone

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Ag & Natural Resources

Events and News for Everyone



Cooperative
Extension Service



Blooms Before
Spring: Forcing
Blubs

McCracken County Extension
Master Gardeners
presents

African
Violet
Viewpoint

Four Seasons with MASTER GARDENERS

JANUARY 5TH 2026
11am to 1pm

McCracken County Extension Service
2025 New Holt Rd Paducah, KY 42001



Sharpen Up
and Show
Your Handles
Some Love



No Greenhouse
Needed:
Growing Plants
From Seeds

LIMITED SPACE. LUNCH INCLUDED
Please register by going to
<https://ukymccracken.pacecommunity.net/>





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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Livestock Events and News

Markets Will Always be Reactive, but Price Risk Management Strategies Must be Forward Looking

By: Kenny Burdine, University of Kentucky

Date: 10/27/2025

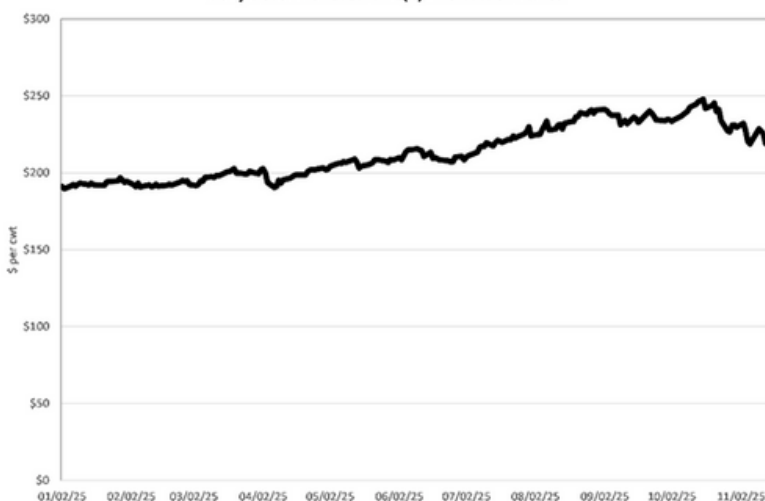
The last month has been a wild one for the cattle markets. In mid-October, markets seemed to be setting new records each week and shrugging off any bearish news that came along. Things changed quickly in mid-October and much has been written about this in recent weeks. It seemed to begin with a statement by the president about wanting to lower beef prices. Following that statement, markets appeared to latch on to any potentially bearish news, including the potential for increased beef imports and the possibility of resuming live cattle imports from Mexico.

As of the close on Friday November 14th, the November CME® feeder cattle futures contract was down more than \$42 per cwt from October 16th. CME® live cattle futures have also fallen sharply, with the December contract down almost \$30 per cwt over the same time. In truth, the fundamentals of the cattle market have not really changed. Cattle supplies remain very tight, and beef demand still seems to be strong. Markets discount prices due to uncertainty and that is exactly what they have done over the last few weeks. I think one must also consider that the markets may have gotten a bit too hot and that made them especially vulnerable this fall. For example, by mid-October that November CME® feeder cattle futures price had risen over 43% from where it started 2025 and is still up nearly 28% for the year.

Regardless of how we got to this point, the impact on the value of fed and feeder cattle being sold is substantial. I always get more price risk management questions on the heels of major downward price movements than after major upward price movements. While it's good to evaluate risk management strategies during times like this, it is not a good time to develop one. Forward contracts, futures, options, and LRP insurance will not allow one to resurrect prices from mid-October unless a specific strategy was in place at that time.

The last few weeks have been another illustration of the importance of planning for downside price risk. We can talk all we want about how justified or irrational a market response may be, but markets are always going to react to new information. On the contrary, risk management plans are meant to be forward-looking. Producers should run budget scenarios for a wide range of sale prices, including major price swings that seem highly unlikely. By doing this, a farmer can make an informed decision about how much risk they are willing to accept and how much potential return they are willing to trade to limit some of that downside risk. This should be done on a regular basis for cow-calf operations, and at placement and on a regular basis for margin operations. Every operation is different and what makes sense for one operation may not make sense for another. But every producer should evaluate the impact of major price swings and consider strategies to manage that risk. Markets will always be reactive, but risk management strategies can't be.

Daily December 2025 CME(C) Live Cattle Futures



Daily November 2025 CME(C) Feeder Cattle Futures



Cattle Market Notes Weekly

Josh Maples
MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

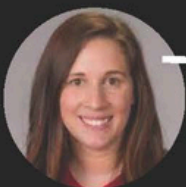
James Mitchell
UA
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
AND FORESTRY
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS SYSTEM

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

Livestock Continued

UK 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. (If you have previously registered, you do not need to re-register). You will receive an invitation and password the morning of the presentation. Zoom will start at 8:00 Eastern/7:00 Central.



November 13

Winter Feeding Approaches: Matching Strategy to Your Herd and Resources - Dr. Katie VanValin, Assistant Professor, University of Kentucky



December 11

Shooting the Bull: Answering all your Beef-Related Questions! - Updates and Roundtable discussion



January 8

Making the Most of the Good Years: Profits, Reinvestment, and Tax Management in Beef Cattle - Jonathan Shepherd, Agricultural Extension Specialist, University of Kentucky



February 12

Impact of Bull Nutrition During Development on Semen Quality - Dr. Pedro Fontes, Associate Professor, University of Georgia



March 12

Bull Selection Practices in Kentucky: What are we Doing Right and What Could we Improve! - Dr. Darrh Bullock, 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.

Row Crops & Forages

Events and News

Crush Growth vs. Export Declines: Can U.S. Soybeans Find Support?

Date: 10/10/2025

Sources: Dr. Grant Gardener, UK Extension Economist

Note: This article was originally written for Sothern Ag Today.

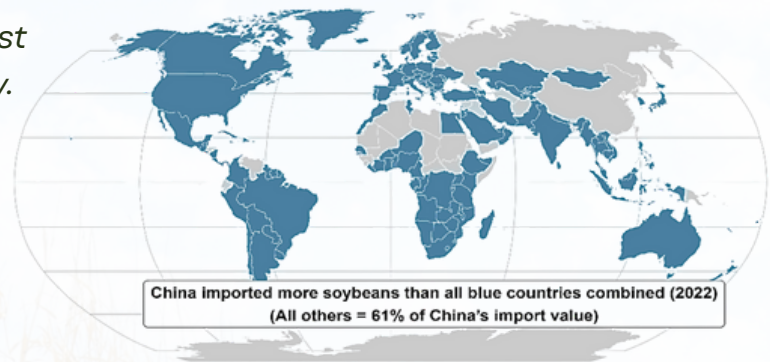
Following strong prices in 2022 and 2023, soybean values have fallen sharply from highs above \$14 to levels near \$10.00 across much of the United States. At these prices, soybeans are projected to generate negative returns during the 2025/26 marketing year. Looking ahead, November 2026 soybean futures are trading near \$11.10. Assuming a \$0.50 harvest basis, a trend yield of 55 bushels per acre, and \$650 per acre in input costs, estimated returns still imply roughly an \$12 per-acre loss. The signal is clear: soybean supply continues to outpace demand at current production levels, and without stronger demand, profitability will remain elusive.

Between 2019 and 2022, U.S. soybeans were split roughly between exports (44%) and domestic crush (47%), with the remainder going to seed, feed, residual use, or ending stocks (Oilseed Yearbook, 2025). Recently, crush expansion has boosted domestic demand, but exports have declined, particularly due to reduced Chinese purchases (Gerlt, 2025). The U.S. recently negotiated a trade agreement under which China will purchase 12 million metric tons (MMT) of U.S. soybeans by January 2026, followed by 25 MMT annually from 2027 through 2029. This level would return Chinese buying close to 2024/25 volumes (Clayton, 2025). While the agreement provides some near-term support, questions remain about fulfillment and what happens beyond 2029.

In the near term, renewed Chinese buying represents the most direct path back to profitability. Crush expansion is important but largely anticipated by markets and will ramp up gradually; it cannot immediately offset recent export weakness. Meanwhile, China remains by far the dominant global buyer: in 2022, China imported more soybeans than all other countries combined, with the rest of the world accounting for just 61% of China's import value (Figure 1). Over the long run, diversifying export markets can reduce reliance on China and lower price risk, but fully replacing Chinese demand is unrealistic.

Longer-term, continued crush growth provides a pathway to tighter balance sheets. Figure 2 illustrates how expanded crush capacity could increase domestic use even if Chinese purchases do not return to prior highs. Projected crush use climbs steadily after 2025 (Gerlt, 2025), supported by renewable diesel and other biofuel investments that may anchor domestic soybean demand going forward. If exports can stabilize near current projections, or strengthen modestly, the combination of incremental trade growth and rising domestic crush could gradually restore profitability.

The recent trade agreement may buy time, but building durable soybean demand outside of China will be essential to a more resilient soybean market beyond 2029.



Source: World Integrated Trade Solution Data
Created by Grant Gardener
Figure 1: World Demand for Soybeans
Outside of China, 2022



Figure 2: Soybean Supply, Demand and
Projected Crush Expansion

Row Crops & Forages



DRONE PILOT CERTIFICATION WORKSHOP



AN INTENSIVE WORKSHOP TO
PREPARE CANDIDATES FOR THE
FAA'S PART 107 DRONE PILOT
CERTIFICATION EXAM

December 15-16, 2025
Madisonville, KY

Class size is limited!

Course: \$400
Exam: \$175

<https://KATSdronepilotcertificationDec2025.eventbrite.com>

- All study materials included
- Lunch provided both days

MORE INFORMATION

Contact: Lori Rogers
lori.rogers@uky.edu
270-365-7541 Ext 21317

KATS.CA.UKY.EDU



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Upcoming Office Events

	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	
MON	1: 4-H International Club (library) 5-6:30	8: Extension District Board Meeting 11-12 (RSVP) 4-H Beginner Tech Workshops (Library) 5-6:30 (RSVP)	15: Homeschool Meeting 2-3 4-H Beginner Tech Workshops (Library) 5-6:30 (RSVP)	22: 4-H Beginner Tech Workshops (Library) 5-6:30 (RSVP)	29: 
TUE	2: Almond Biscotti (full) 9-2 Game Day 9-12 Pathways to Sewing 9-11	9: Pathways to Sewing 9-11	16: Bags of Love 9:30-1:30 Laugh and Learn 11-12 (Library)	23: Pathways to Sewing 9-11	30: 
WED	3: Chair Yoga 10-11 (\$3) McCracken County Civic Beautification Board 10-11	10: Chair Yoga 10-11 (\$3) Tech Class: Search Basics 11-12 (RSVP)	17: Scrapbooking 9-3	24: 	31: 
THURS	4: Needlework Circle 10-12 Crochet Alley & Knit Row 1-3	11: 4-H Art Club 4:30-5:30 (aged 9-12), 5:30-7 (aged 13-18)	18: Game Day 9-12 Needlework Circle 10-12 Crochet Alley & Knit Row 1-3	25: 	
FRI	5: Champion Food Volunteer Training 10:30-1:30 (RSVP)	12: Arts and Crafts: Orange Pomander (RSVP, \$10)	19: 	26: 	

Event Calendar for December 2025

If you have questions or would like to RSVP, call the office at 270-554-9520.

The full calendar with event descriptions is located on our website.
<https://mccracken.mgcafe.uky.edu/events/calendar>

Recipe of the Month

Holiday Turkey Salad

Servings: 6 Serving Size: 1 cup

Ingredients:

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 pounds cooked turkey breast, cut into bite-sized pieces
- 1 cup plain nonfat Greek yogurt
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 (14 ounce) can pineapple chunks, drained
- 1 cup halved red grapes
- 3 chopped celery stalks
- $\frac{2}{3}$ cup pecan halves



Directions:

- Heat oil in large skillet over medium heat. Add turkey pieces and cook until lightly browned. Let turkey cool slightly.
- In a small bowl, mix together yogurt and honey. Set aside.
- In a large bowl, mix together pineapple, grapes, celery, and pecans. Add turkey. Add yogurt dressing until desired texture.
- Refrigerate until well chilled.

Source: Katie Shoultz, Extension Specialist, University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service

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