

MCCRACKEN AG NEWS



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

I hope you had a very blessed holiday season between Christmas and the upcoming New Year!

December was a little bit slower month in terms of meetings, but I definitely spent more time trying to get prepared for the upcoming new year.

As a Board Director for the McCracken County Farm Bureau, I was able to attend the **2025 KY Annual Farm Bureau Conference** in Louisville. Our board was able to make a donation to the Ronald McDonald House Foundation (as pictured above). At this conference I was able to participate in an ANR Agent Professional Development Training as well as gain information on the ag commodity market outlook.

I was asked to come help with the **CPH Cattle Sale** in Guthrie, KY again this year with some of my ANR counterparts from the area (as pictured above). This year's sale brought in a total of 689 head of cattle!

As an office, the McCracken County agents and staff participated in a costume contest as part of our **December All-Staff Professional Development Training**. We went with "A Christmas Story" this year.

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



Everyone

Page
2

Livestock

Page
3-4

*Row Crops and
Forages*

Page
5-6

*Other Upcoming
Events and Recipe*

Page
7-8

Ag & Natural Resources Events and News for Everyone

Cooperative Extension Service

Blooms Before Spring: Forcing Bulbs

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
#11 Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

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Cooperative Extension Service

SUMMER SAUSAGE WORKSHOPS

Hands on workshops where you'll learn to grind, mix, stuff and smoke delicious homemade summer sausage!

Two Chances:

January 20th
McCracken Co. Extension Office
2025 New Holt Rd in Paducah
(270) 554-9520
6:00pm

or

February 12th
Marshall Co. Extension Office
2081 Mayfield Hwy in Benton
(270) 527-3285
6:00pm

Check or Card only!

\$20
(per group)

RSVP Required!
(please call to register)

*Limited to 15 groups per class

Cooperative Extension Service
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
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MCCRACKEN COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PRESENTS

KING CAKE CLASS

MAKE YOUR OWN KING CAKES

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH
FROM 9:30 AM TO 2:30 PM

TRADITIONAL KING CAKES WITH KELLY, STEPHANIE, GRACEY, & SAMANTHA

BRING A PARTNER AND MAKE YOUR OWN TRADITIONAL MARDI GRAS KING CAKES FROM SCRATCH FOR A TAKE HOME TREAT! IT'S A HANDS-ON AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCE WHERE YOU CAN IMMERSE YOURSELF IN THE RICH NEW ORLEANS HISTORY. LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED

SECURE YOUR SPOT NOW BY CALLING THE MCCRACKEN COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OFFICE AT 270-554-9520. SPOTS ARE LIMITED, SO CALL NOW!

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Cooperative Extension Service

Gourd Birdhouse Workshop

Decorate your own Gourd Birdhouse to take home

February 24th
2-4pm

REGISTER NOW



Spots are limited!

Call for more info: 270-554-9520
McCracken County Extension Office
2025 New Holt Rd
Paducah, KY 42001

Cooperative Extension Service
Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Livestock Events and News

A Review of 2025 Beef and Cattle Markets

By: James Mitchell, University of Arkansas

Date: 12/16/2025

U.S. cattle inventories are at their lowest since the 1950s, totaling 86.7 million head as of January 1, 2025. Arkansas cattle inventory in 2025 totaled 1.56 million, Kentucky totaled 1.85 million, and Mississippi totaled 810 million, all the lowest inventories in at least the last 60 years. The U.S. cattle industry began cattle herd liquidation when inventories peaked at 94.7 million head in 2019 and have reduced by eight million head since that time (chart above). Liquidating inventories is one phase of the cattle cycle, a 10-12-year pattern of expanding and contracting cattle numbers driven by changes in producer profitability and worsened by drought. The impacts of historically tight cattle numbers are being felt at every stage of the beef supply chain.

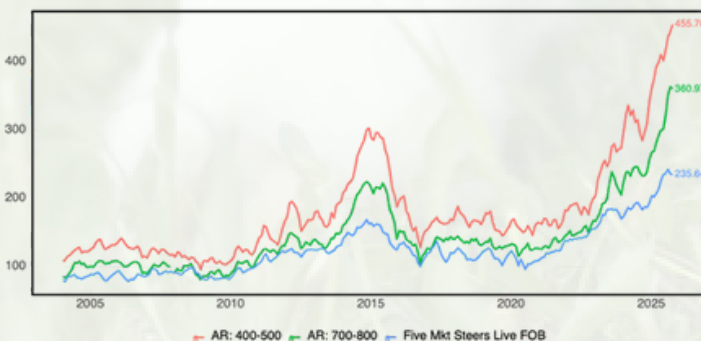


January 1 All Cattle and Calves Inventory, 1,000 Head.
Source: USDA-NASS, LMIC.

2025 cattle on feed inventories have averaged 11.44 million through November, a decline of 1.5% compared to 2024 over the same period. Despite longer days on feed and record dressed weights, tighter cattle supplies are affecting the number of cattle placed on feed and those leaving feedlots. Through October, cumulative feedlot placements have totaled 17.6 million or 6.4 percent lower year over year. Fed cattle slaughter in 2025 through mid-December has averaged 6.2 percent lower compared to 2024. Together, these trends have contributed to lower beef production. The December World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates from the USDA forecast 2025 beef production at 25.95 billion pounds, or 1.03 billion pounds (4.1 percent) below 2024 production.

Cattle and beef prices are sharply higher through the first half of 2025 (chart below). Arkansas steer prices for 500-600 lb. calves have averaged \$371/cwt year-to-date through November, up 29 percent from the same period in 2024 and more than double the 2019-2023 average. Arkansas feeder cattle prices (700-800 lb) are averaging \$314/cwt, a 32 percent year-over-year increase. Kentucky and Mississippi prices have followed similar trends. Fed cattle prices in the five-area region are averaging \$224/cwt, up 20 percent from last year, while the Choice boxed beef cutout has averaged \$359/cwt—17 percent higher than 2024 and close to 37 percent above the 2019-2023 average.

Market fundamentals and strong prices suggest there are incentives to begin rebuilding the U.S. cow herd, however, the signals for expansion remain muted at this point. While beef cow slaughter has come down by 17 percent, there is little evidence a beef heifer retention occurring at a scale that would imply that significant expansion is occurring. Structural constraints, input costs, and financial considerations will likely delay a rapid recovery in beef cow numbers. Policy uncertainty is also a key factor to watch and the past few months has shown how sensitive cattle markets are to it. The herd rebuild, when it does occur, will be slower than the last rebuild that began in 2014. This slower speed is likely to mean relatively tight supplies and support for cattle prices for the next few years.



Monthly Average Steer Prices 2004-2025, \$/cwt.
Data Source: USDA-AMS, LMIC.

Cattle Market Notes Weekly

Josh Maples

MISSISSIPPI STATE
UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

James Mitchell

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
DIVISION OF MARKETS RESEARCH
RESEARCH & EXTENSION

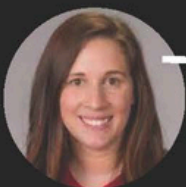
Kenny Burdine

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

Forage Timely Tips: December

Kentucky Forage News

Date: 12/5/2025

- Begin utilizing stockpiled pastures. Graze pastures with orchardgrass and clovers first. Save tall fescue pastures for late winter grazing.
- Using polywire, strip graze stockpiled pastures to improve Utilization. Start at the water source and allocate enough forage for 2-3 days. Back fencing is not necessary.
- Make plans to frost seed red and white clover onto closely grazed tall fescue pastures in February.
- Some hay can be fed as stockpiled grass is grazed to stretch grass.
- Begin hay feeding as stockpiled forage is used up



SOYBEAN PROMOTION DAYS

MURRAY STATE
TUES., JAN. 20
CFSB CENTER
8:30 A.M. - LUNCH



Dr. Dave Kohl
Dr. Dave Kohl is an academic Hall of Famer in the College of Agriculture at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA. Dr. Kohl has keen insight into the agriculture industry gained through extensive travel, research, and involvement in ag businesses. He has traveled over 10 million miles; conducted more than 7,000 presentations; and published more than 2,500 articles in his career. Dr. Kohl's wisdom and engagement with all levels of the industry provide a unique perspective into future trends.



2026 SPD MURRAY

HARDIN CO. EXTENSION OFFICE
WED., JAN. 21
8:30 A.M. - LUNCH



Warren Beeler
Currently serving as Kentucky's Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture, Warren Beeler is best known as "Mr. Kentucky Agriculture."
A longtime farmer himself, Beeler has been through the ups and downs of agriculture right here in Kentucky, and has weathered many of the same storms we are in today.
He'll bring a message from the Commissioner as well as reflect on some of his experiences with the resilience of Kentucky's agriculturalists.
Spending time with Warren Beeler always leaves us feeling a little more hopeful, and a little less alone. He will be a featured speaker at both events, and we hope that you will join us.



Brewer Blessitt
Brewer Blessitt is a graduate of Mississippi State University. He was a generation removed from farming when he left the field of biochemistry and jumped into general agronomy.
He worked 8 years in extension, went back to grad school, and took a job with a major seed company during his doctoral work where he held various positions and geographies over 12 years. He also was fortunate enough to farm part-time with a friend in the northern MS delta. It was there when he started his current business, Blythe Bayou Research and Consulting. He went on to work at a biostimulant company to learn the ins and outs of that emerging industry before leaving to fully focus on his consulting business.
Blessitt was the featured speaker for our Bowling Green Intensive Soybean Management Workshop back in 2023, and he is back by popular demand.



2026 SPD ETOWN

These events are sponsored through funding provided by the United Soybean Board.



Click the codes or visit KySoy.org to register

Row Crops & Forages



2026

Pesticide Private Applicator Trainings

Who needs this certification?

Anyone who sprays "restricted use" pesticides privately (not for a compensation), Those who spray for compensation need a commercial applicators license from the KDA. These certifications are valid for 2 years after the licensing year and expire Dec. 31st of the final year.

RSVP!

CALL 270-554-9520
or SCAN QR CODES
TO REGISTER

There
are
three
chances:



January 21st



February 10th



February 16th

Wednesday, January
21st 9:00 AM

Tuesday, February 10th
5:30 PM

Monday, February 16th 9:00
AM

McCracken County
Cooperative Extension
Office

2025 New Holt Rd,
Paducah, KY 42001

Cannot
attend any of
these dates?
Contact the
Extension
Office to
schedule a
one-on-one
training.

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

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Disability
accommodated
with prior notification

Upcoming Office Events

01	<div>January</div> <div>MONTHLY PLANNER</div>				2026
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
			1 <div>CLOSED</div>	2 <div>CLOSED</div>	
5 Four Seasons with Master Gardeners 11-1 RSVP International 4-H Club 5-6:30 (Library)	6 Game Day 9-12 Pathway to Sewing 9-11 Soils and Natural Repellants in the Garden 5-6 RSVP	7 MC Civic Beautification Board Meeting 10-11	8 Master Your Mindset 9-10:30 RSVP	9 Arts and Crafts: Quilt Block Canvas 9:30-12 RSVP, \$12	
12 MC Extension District Board Meeting 11-12 RSVP	13 Pathway to Sewing 9-11	14 Chair Yoga 10-10:45 RSVP \$3 Tech Class 11-12 RSVP	15 Master Your Mindset 9-10:30 RSVP Game Day 9-12 Needlework Circle 10-12 Crochet Alley & Knit Row 1-3 Pocket Full of Hugs 11-12:30 or 5-6:30 (Library) 4-H Art Club 3:30-4:30 for 12-18 or 4:30-5:30 for 9-12	16	
19 <div>CLOSED</div>	20 Bags of Love 9:30-1:30 Laugh & Learn 11-12 (Library) Summer Sausage Workshop 6 \$20/pair	21 Scrapbooking 9-3 Chair Yoga 10-10:45 RSVP \$3	22 Master Your Mindset 9-10:30 RSVP	23	
26	27 Pathway to Sewing 9-11	28 Chair Yoga 10-10:45 RSVP \$3	29 Master Your Mindset 9-10:30 RSVP Party Planning 101: Valentines Day 5:30 RSVP	30 Pocket Full of Hugs 11-12:30 or 5-6:30	

Event Calendar for January 2026

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.mgc.afe.uky.edu/events/calendar>

Recipe of the Month

Cabbage Jambalaya

Servings: 10 **Serving Size:** 1 cup

Ingredients:

- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 1 1/2 cups chopped celery
- 1 1/2 cups chopped onion
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 (13 ounces) package turkey smoked sausage, sliced
- 1 medium head cabbage, chopped (about 10 cups)
- 1 (14.5 ounces) can diced tomatoes
- 2 cups water
- 1 cup brown rice
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 tablespoon Cajun seasoning



Directions:

- Heat a large stockpot over medium high.
- Add ground beef, and cook until it starts to brown, about 6 minutes.
- Add the celery, and cook for 2 minutes.
- Add onion and garlic, and cook 4 minutes while stirring.
- Add smoked sausage, and cook an additional 2 to 3 minutes.
- Stir in cabbage, and cook until it wilts, about 3 minutes.
- Add tomatoes, water, rice, garlic powder, and Cajun seasoning.
- Bring to a boil, and reduce heat to medium.
- Cover and simmer for 40 minutes. Serve hot.

Make it a Meal: Pair with whole grain toast or cornbread.

Source: <https://fruitsandveggies.org/> • Publication - ID-128, Home Vegetable Gardening in Kentucky, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Kentucky, College of Agriculture. Plate it up! Kentucky Proud Project.

**Cooperative
Extension Service**

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

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