

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

October has come and went in a flash, I can't believe November is already here!

Harvest season is still going on, so please keep an eye out on the roads for our farmers and other ag workers that are moving various pieces of equipment and grain trucks. Safety is just as important on the road as it is in the field.

At the beginning of October I partnered with one of our 4-H agents to take 9 teen volunteers to Disney World for the **Disney's Imagination Campus Leadership Training**. I had the opportunity to chaperone and transport this great group of kids throughout the week (as pictured above). We had a great time and we all learned something new!

Starting in October, I am partnering with **Hendron Lone Oak Elementary School's 21st Century After School Club**. Kicking off the program on a high note, I was able to bring pumpkins for the kiddos to paint and take home (as pictured above).

I was asked to come help with the **MCHS FFA's Annual Fall on the Farm** event. I was able to bring my apple crusher and press, cornhole boards, and pumpkin spice playdough ingredients (as pictured above).

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



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Ag & Natural Resources Events and News for Everyone



The poster for the Fungi Fiesta Mushroom Workshop features a light beige background with a decorative border of various mushrooms and autumn leaves. The title 'FUNGI FIESTA' is in large, dark green, serif capital letters, with 'Mushroom Workshop' in a smaller, dark green, sans-serif font below it. The event details are listed in a dark green, sans-serif font. A QR code is on the left, and a small image of oyster mushrooms is on the right. The bottom of the poster has a dark green wavy border with logos and contact information.

When: November 13th from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Where: McCracken County Cooperative Extension Office
2025 New Holt Rd
Paducah, KY 42001

Are you interested in learning about all things fungi? UK Forest Health Specialist, Dr. Ellen Crocker will be joining us to talk about mushroom fundamentals. Following her presentation we will also be making Oyster Mushroom Tee-Pee kits to take home!

SPOTS ARE LIMITED!
You can RSVP by scanning this QR code or by going to our website to sign up. For any questions call 270-554-9520

Cooperative Extension Service
Agriculture and Natural Resources
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

Cooperative Extension Service | **Agriculture and Natural Resources**

Are you hunting this deer season? If so, we would love to give you a treat! Starting **November 5th**, we will have **“Hunter’s Snack Bags”** set out by the **KDFW CWD Drop Off Freezer at our barn and inside our office for free pickup**. These bags will include different wild game recipes and snacks to take with you on the hunt. If you sign your name when you pick up your bag, your name will be put in a drawing for a giveaway. Happy Hunting!

Livestock Events and News

Feedlot Placements and Marketings Down Sharply from 2024

By: James Mitchell, University of Arkansas

Kenny Burdine, University of Kentucky

Josh Maples, Mississippi State University Extension

Date: 10/27/2025

Feeder and Live Cattle futures have fallen sharply over the past 12 days. The CME December Live Cattle futures contract closed at \$247.88 per cwt on October 16 but is trading today (October 27th) near \$224 per cwt. The CME November Feeder Cattle futures contract closed at \$380.95 per cwt on October 16 and is now trading below \$339 per cwt. This period has included multiple limit-down days in the futures market. The goal of this article is to provide context for some of the key questions circulating during this market swing. We certainly don't claim to have definitive answers as the situation remains fluid and will continue to evolve.

Argentina Beef Imports

The market shock began on October 16, following President Trump's suggestion that there was a plan to lower beef prices. As more information emerged, it appeared that the proposal centered on increasing beef imports from Argentina. Specifically, the plan would expand the Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) from 20,000 metric tons to 80,000 metric tons for Argentina beef, effectively quadrupling the volume of Argentina beef that could enter the U.S. market. Understandably, this announcement has caused considerable concern among market participants.

Could Higher Imports from Argentina Impact Beef Prices?

The short answer is: likely very little. The U.S. is already importing larger-than-normal volumes of beef due to low domestic production and historically low cattle numbers. Year to date through July, beef imports totaled 3.4 billion pounds, up 30% from the same period last year. The September World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) forecast 2025 U.S. beef imports at 5.4 billion pounds, or about 18.4% of total U.S. beef disappearance. The proposed TRQ increase for Argentina—an additional 60,000 metric tons—would account for less than 1% of total disappearance, even if fully utilized.

It is also important to recognize that “beef” is not a single product but a diverse portfolio of products serving different market segments. The U.S. imports primarily lean manufacturing beef used in ground beef production, while the domestic industry produces a larger share of grain-fed, high-quality cuts. As a result, imports tend to supplement the domestic ground beef market rather than directly compete in the U.S. grain-fed beef market. Both the volume and composition of imports are critical for assessing their impact on domestic beef prices and it's hard to see how either would drastically change overall volume or import composition in the United States.

Live Cattle Imports

Markets also had to react to news about a potential meeting this week between the U.S. and Mexico to discuss a possible reopening of the southern border to live cattle imports. The U.S.-Mexico border was first closed to live animal trade on November 2024 following a detection of New World Screwworm in Mexico and remains closed today. Between February and May 2025, when the border was briefly open, weekly feeder cattle imports from Mexico averaged 14,900 head—about 43% lower than the 2020-2024 weekly average.

If a hypothetical agreement were reached to reopen the border, it would likely occur gradually and involve limited entry. In addition, many of the cattle that would have been exported while the border was closed have already entered alternative marketing channels. Therefore, there is little evidence of a significant backlog of Mexican cattle awaiting import. Even if some inventories were available, a phased reopening would somewhat limit any increase in supply that could disrupt U.S. cattle markets.

Have the Fundamentals Changed?

Cattle Market Notes Weekly

Josh Maples



James Mitchell



Kenny Burdine



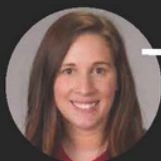
Livestock Continued

To be clear, recent developments have certainly impacted cattle markets, but they have not materially changed the underlying fundamentals. The U.S. still faces historically tight cattle supplies and lower beef production. While beef cow slaughter has declined notably in 2025, there is little indication of widespread beef heifer retention. When herd rebuilding does begin, fewer animals will enter the beef supply chain in the near term, further tightening supplies. Beef supplies are tight now and will be tighter in 2026. Heifer retention is the key to longer term cattle and beef supply expansion and that is a multi-year process.

It is still too soon to determine the full impact of these market shocks on cash cattle markets. Prices for 500- to 600-pound steers were mostly 1% to 3% lower last week, with a few exceptions. Heavier feeder cattle prices also declined 1% to 3%. The CME Feeder Cattle Index was down 2.5%, or \$9 per cwt from the previous week. Given that cattle futures were down sharply today (October 27th), continued weakness in cash markets is very possible this week. While this is more significant than a seasonal decline, it is worth noting that the prices of heavy feeders tend to decrease as we move through fall and approach winter. Regardless, the last couple of weeks have spoken to the importance of price risk management and stakeholders should pay close attention as things continue to develop.

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

Cover Crop Considerations for 2026

Date: 10/10/2025

Sources: *Dr. Chad Lee, UK Grain Crops Specialist, Dr. Erin Haramoto, UK Weed Science Research, Hanna Poffenbarger, UK Soils Research*

Farmers in Kentucky have been managing many fields no-till and low-till for decades. Cover crops are needed to help reduce soil erosion, especially when following soybeans. Soybean residue is decomposing by February in many fields, leading to soil erosion. The top priority of a cover crop in these fields is to reduce soil erosion.

Going with a Grain

The best options for reducing soil erosion are the small grains – wheat, barley and cereal rye. These three crops usually have good seed quality, grow well in our fields and will produce root systems that help reduce soil erosion. Plant wheat, barley or cereal rye in October, preferably, or November with a drill with disk openers. The drill with disk openers will provide adequate soil-to-seed contact, which is necessary given the dry conditions this fall. Seeding rate can be between 40 to 60 lbs per acre, trending toward the higher rate with later plantings.

If the soil test calls for phosphorus to be applied, apply DAP (18-46-0) in the fall. That little bit of nitrogen with the DAP will help establish the cover crops.

Terminate the cover crop about 4 weeks before planting corn in the spring. Using a herbicide like glyphosate to terminate before planting corn will reduce potential competition with the corn crop. The remaining cover crop root system will stay mostly intact for at least 4 to 6 weeks following termination, helping to hold soil in place.

Using a single or mix of these cereal cover crops (wheat, barley and/or cereal rye) and terminating about 4 weeks before corn planting probably provides the best combination of inexpensive seed, success in establishment, and reduction of soil erosion. This approach will require an additional 20 to 40 pounds of nitrogen per acre in the following corn crop.

Other Species

Legumes are often used to provide some plant available nitrogen to the following corn crop. Crimson clover and Austrian winter pea can be planted on the middle of October. Brassicas like radishes are reported to help with soil compaction in some cases. Brassicas should be planted in September for best results. If the legume is terminated early (4 weeks or so before planting), there is little to no nitrogen benefit to the following corn crop. Most radishes selected for cover crops in this region will be killed by freezing temperatures well before planting corn. Other brassicas like canola (or oilseed rape) will survive most winters in Kentucky.

Legumes and brassicas have many benefits, but are often slow to establish in fall and, with the exception of oilseed radishes, do not provide adequate groundcover on their own. Therefore, if the goal is to reduce soil erosion, legumes and brassicas should be mixed with a small grain cover crop. Glyphosate alone may not be sufficient to terminate the mixed species cover crops. If these mixes are terminated 4 weeks before planting corn, there is an expectation that an additional 20 to 40 pounds of nitrogen per acre is needed for the corn crop.

For additional resources feel free to contact me via email at gracey.moffitt@uky.edu and I would be happy to share them with you.

Row Crops & Forages

Crop protection webinars begin Oct. 30th

Register now for multiple webinars focusing on agronomic crops and Integrated Pest Management. The University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment will present the 2025 Fall Crop Protection Webinar Series, hosted through the Southern Integrated Pest Management Center. The series will begin at 10 a.m. ET/9 a.m. CT on Thursday, Oct. 30, 2025, and will continue consecutive Thursday mornings through Nov. 20 at the same time. Each webinar will be one hour in length. Continuing Education Units for certified crop advisors will include 1 CEU in Integrated Pest Management per webinar or 4 CEUs total for participation in all four webinars; Kentucky pesticide applicators will receive 1 CEU in Category 1A (Ag Plant) for each webinar attended.

The webinars are open to agriculture and natural resource county extension agents, crop consultants, farmers, industry professionals, and others, whether they reside or work in Kentucky or outside the state. Pre-registration is required by clicking on the links below.



Webinar #1: Oct. 30, 2025; 9 a.m. CT — Dr. Carl Bradley, Extension Plant Pathologist

Title: Research Update on Red Crown Rot of Soybean

Registration link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_lyKRuRuTR7iSKizMCGh36g



Webinar #2: Nov. 6, 2025; 9 a.m. CT — Dr. Raul Villanueva, Extension Entomologist

Title: Delayed Appearance or Declining Insect Pest Numbers in Field Crops in Recent Years

Registration link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gmiW6VE5R5GzmJJUlSbiDw



Webinar #3: Nov. 13, 2025; 9 a.m. CT — Dr. Kiersten Wise, Extension Plant Pathologist

Title: Stopping Southern Rust: Scouting, Spraying, and Staying Ahead

Registration link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uRGIZOK-T1KCnRBvU3LscA



Webinar #4: Nov. 20, 2025; 9 a.m. CT — Dr. Travis Legleiter, Extension Weeds Specialist

Title: Defense Wins the Ryegrass Battle

Registration link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_X72Xki21QzGKiX2BA9Ht6w

Upcoming Office Events

	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4
MON	3: Big Blue Book Club Watch Party 12:30-1:30 4-H International Club 5-6:30 (Library)	10: Extension District Board Meeting 11-12 (RSVP) Big Blue Book Club Watch Party 12:30-1:30	17: Big Blue Book Club Watch Party 12:30-1:30 Homeschool Meeting 2-3 Toss the Toxins 5:30-6:30 (RSVP)	24:
TUE	4: Pathways to Sewing 9-11 Game Day 9-12 Master Cattlemen Night 6: 5-8 (RSVP, FULL)	11: Pathways to Sewing 9-11	18: Bags of Love 9:30-1:30 Laugh and Learn 11-12 (Library)	25: Pathways to Sewing 9-11
WED	5: Chair Yoga 10-11 (\$3) McCracken County Civic Beautification Board 10-11	12: Chair Yoga 10-11 (\$3) Tech Class: Digital Resources Guide 11-12 (RSVP)	19: Chair Yoga 10-11 (\$3) Scrapbooking 9-3	26: Chair Yoga 10-11 (\$3)
THURS	6: Needlework Circle 10-12 Crochet Alley & Knit Row 1-3	13:	20: Game Day 9-12 Needlework Circle 10-12 Crochet Alley & Knit Row 1-3	27: 
FRI	7:	14: Arts and Crafts: Needle Tatting (RSVP, \$8)	21:	28: 

Event Calendar for November 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

Venison Stew

Servings: 6 Serving Size: 2 cups

Ingredients:

- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1 pound venison, cubed
- 1 tablespoon oil
- 3 cups water
- 1 onion, chopped
- 4 potatoes, cubed
- 3 carrots, sliced
- 3 stalks celery, chopped
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 tablespoon dried parsley



Directions:

- Combine pepper, salt, garlic powder, and flour in a plastic bag or large bowl. Add cubed venison and shake bag or toss to coat meat. Brown meat in hot oil, in a large, heavy saucepan. Stir in water. Add remaining ingredients and cook on high until it begins to boil. Reduce heat and simmer for approximately 1 hour. To thicken, in a small mixing bowl, stir ½ cup warm water into 2 tablespoons of flour. Add mixture into stew. Stir until thickened and bubbly. Cook an additional 30 minutes or until vegetables and meat are tender.

Source: Adapted from Venison Recipe Collection, Compiled by Becky Nash, Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences

Tips: Alternative to stove-top cooking: use slow cooker set on low for 8 hours.

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Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.