

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

Holy cow it is already October! It is hard to believe that September flew by so fast, but I am just excited to finally have some fall weather!

Harvest season really kicked off in September just around Labor Day and is still in full swing. 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 September I partnered with our FCS agent to do a 2-night **Disaster Preparedness Program**. I got to speak on the second night about post disaster safety, farm and animal specific disaster preparedness and safety, as well as the importance of mental health and resources. We had a great turnout this year!

The **Purchase Region Master Cattlemen Program Series** is in full swing and has been very successful so far. We have been having about 50 people in attendance at each session to get closer to receiving their certifications.

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

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
MCCRACKEN COUNTY EXTENSION
HOMEMAKERS ANNUAL

HOLIDAY BAZAAR AND VENDOR FAIR

1

NOVEMBER

8:00 AM- 3:00 PM

2025 NEW HOLT ROAD
PADUCAH KY 42001
(270) 554-9520

Livestock Events and News

Feedlot Placements and Marketings Down Sharply from 2024

By: Josh Maples, Mississippi State University Extension

Date: 9/22/2025

The USDA's latest Cattle on Feed report showed continued tightening of feedlot supplies. Total cattle on feed was down only 1.1 percent from a year ago, but both placements into feedlots and marketings out of feedlots were sharply below year-ago levels.

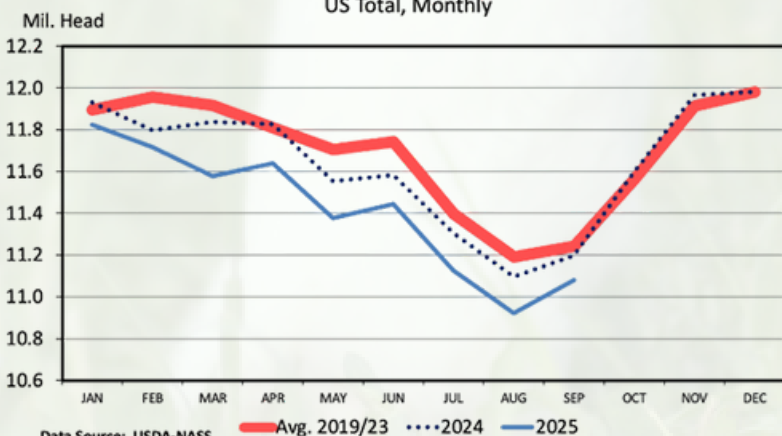
As of September 1, feedlots with 1,000 head or more reported 11.1 million cattle on feed. Placements during August were 1.78 million head, a 9.9 percent decline from August 2024. Placements were lower across all weight classes. This was the lowest August placement total since 2015.

At 1.57 million head, fed cattle marketed in August dropped 13.6 percent from a year ago. This was the lowest August marketing level since the series began in 1996. Excluding the early months of the pandemic, August 2025 was also the lowest marketings total of any month since 2015. There was one less slaughter day this year which accounted for some of the difference, but this is still a very low marketings total. Regional differences are stark. The three largest cattle feeding states are Texas, Nebraska, and Kansas which combine for about 65 percent of total cattle on feed. Despite smaller placements, cattle on feed in Nebraska was up 4.7 percent and Kansas was up 3.1 percent. Meanwhile the number of cattle on feed in Texas was 9.1 percent below September 2024 driven by an 18 percent decline in placements into Texas feedlots. The closure of the southern border to imports of feeder cattle due to concerns of New World Screwworm is impacting southern feedlots and could lead to Texas being surpassed by Nebraska as the largest cattle feeding state in the coming months.

Nebraska has surpassed Texas in monthly totals only nine times with most of those instances occurring during 2014-2016 and driven by severe drought reductions in Texas cattle. On September 1, Texas had 70 thousand head more cattle on feed than Nebraska and 150 thousand more than Kansas. This is much tighter than the 430 thousand and 470 thousand differences from a year ago. The 150 thousand head difference between Texas and Kansas is the closest since 1992.

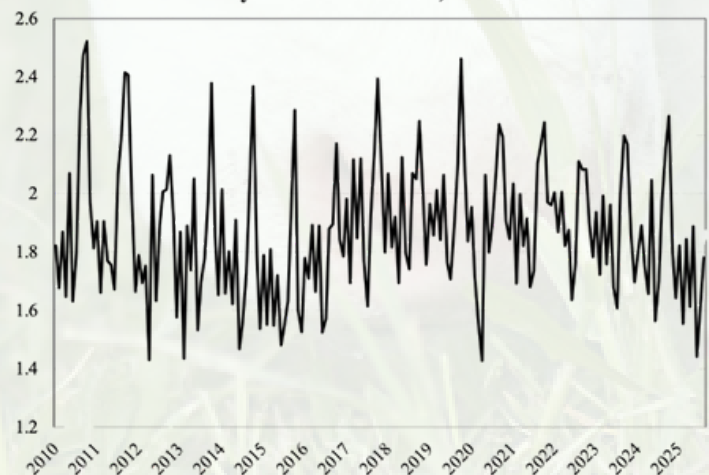
Overall, this report was pretty telling about the current dynamics of the cattle and beef sector. At the national level, placements and marketings slowed sharply in August. A closer look at state-level statistics shows the shift northward in cattle feeding numbers as southern feeders face even tighter supplies.

CATTLE ON FEED
US Total, Monthly



Data Source: USDA-NASS
Livestock Marketing Information Center

Monthly Feedlot Placements, million head



Data Source: USDA-NASS

Cattle Market Notes Weekly

Josh Maples



James Mitchell



Kenny Burdine



Livestock

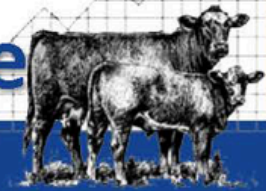


University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

"Today's Challenges, Tomorrow's Opportunities"

Kentucky Beef Conference

October 21, 2025



Fayette County Extension Office
1140 Harry Sykes Way
Lexington, Kentucky 40504

2:00-3:00

Registration, visit
sponsors

**RSVP by October 17th
to Fayette County
Extension Office
859.257.5582**

****If you have a gluten or
alpha gal allergy please
indicate that when you
call****

CAIP Education Eligible

3:00 — Welcome & Sponsor Recognition

Allison Tucker, Fayette County Agriculture & Natural Resources Extension Agent

University of KY Remarks & Welcome

Dr. Craig Wood, Ast. Director or Extension for Agriculture, Natural Resources & Horticulture

Marketing Update & Outlook

Dr. Kenny Burdine, UK Beef Economic Extension Specialist

4:00 – Bull Management & Selection

Dr. Saulo Zoca, University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture Beef Reproduction Extension Specialist

5:00— Emerging Insect Pests

Dr. Hannah Tiffin, UK Extension Entomologist

Dr. Jessie Lay, UK Extension Animal Health Veterinarian

6:15 — Questions/Wrap up

6:30 — Meal

**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

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating. Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Row Crops & Forages Events and News

Fall 2025 Wheat Planting Decision

Date: 9/23/2025

Source: Greg Halich, UK Extension Ag Economist

Corn harvest is underway and Kentucky grain farmers will soon decide if and how much wheat they will plant this fall. Compared to last year there is a slight drop in both soybean and wheat prices, stable fuel prices, and a slight increase in fertilizer prices. The following analysis quantifies these relative changes to estimate the profitability for crops harvested in 2026. The analysis includes estimated returns comparing double-cropped wheat/soybeans with full-season soybeans for the 2026 crop, and the likely implications for Kentucky grain farmers.

Additional costs associated with double-cropping are accounted for, including fuel, fertilizer, herbicides, machinery repairs and depreciation, labor, hauling, etc. The analysis assumes a blended mix of selling directly from the field and selling from storage for both wheat and soybeans, as well as expected basis for each crop with those scenarios. This results in 2026 crop blended prices of \$5.60/bu for wheat and \$10.50/bu for soybeans given Future's prices at the close of 9/23/25.

Two regions with different agronomic characteristics are evaluated. The first region is along the southwest tier of counties roughly between I-24 and I-65, which traditionally does a lot of double-cropping. The second region is the northwest tier of Kentucky counties (Ohio Valley region) that has some of the best yields for corn and soybeans, but traditionally plants less wheat. Cash rent is assumed to be \$200/acre for both these regions for the average ground and \$250/acre on the best ground (note: this will vary substantially, but is done here for illustrative purposes only). Other major assumptions are: \$3.00/gallon fuel, 50 mile one-way grain hauling, \$.63/unit N, \$.71/unit P, and \$.41/unit K.

Summary-Recommendations: Given the current expected market conditions (9/23/25), planting wheat does not look attractive in any of the Kentucky regions evaluated. On average ground in the Southwest Tier and all the Northwest Tier there is a clear advantage for full-season soybeans. On the best ground in the Southwest Tier there was a small advantage for full-season soybeans. The results are worse compared to last fall in terms of the relative profitability for wheat. The results are also worse compared to last fall in terms of overall profitability.

This analysis does not account for potential payments from Farm Bill programs. However, these programs would pay on base acre crop allocation and not planted acres, so there should be no effect on the planting decision. This analysis also does not account for the potential of harvesting straw, which is typically more common in Central Kentucky, or potential soil health benefits for having a winter cover crop with the wheat.

To change the assumptions above to your specific conditions and evaluate your expected profitability, go to the budget site at <https://agecon.ca.uky.edu/extension/publications-budgets-decision-aids> The Corn-Soybean Budgets and Wheat Budgets can be downloaded or opened directly from this page.

Greg Halich can be contacted at Greg.Halich@uky.edu or 859-257-8841

For the full article, feel free to contact me via email at gracey.moffitt@uky.edu and I would be happy to share it with you.

Row Crops & Forages



2025 KY GRAZING CONFERENCE

GRAZING FOR PROFIT:
OPTIMIZING RETURNS IN GRASS
BASED OPERATIONS

FEATURING PRESENTATIONS BY...

JIM GERRISH
DR. GREG HALICH
DR. CHRIS TEUTSCH
DR. RAY SMITH
CODY RAKES
DR. RICARDO RIBERIO
& LOCAL PRODUCERS

TWO LOCATIONS IN KY



Tuesday, October 28
Winchester, KY



Thursday, October 30
Leitchfield, KY

REGISTER TODAY!

<https://2025GrazingConferenceEast.eventbrite.com>
<https://2025GrazingConferenceWest.eventbrite.com>



Winchester, KY



Leitchfield, KY



2025 KY GRAZING CONFERENCE AGENDA

7:30 AM	Registration & Refreshments	** All times local **
8:00 AM	Welcome <i>Dr. Ray Smith, University of Kentucky</i>	
8:15 AM	Seven Things That I Have Learned About Profitable Ranching in the Last 45 Years, <i>Jim Gerrish, American GrazingLands Services</i>	
9:15 AM	Nutrient Cycling in Grassland Ecosystems <i>Dr. Ricardo Ribério, University of Kentucky</i>	
10:00 AM	Break & Visit with Sponsors	
10:30 AM	Forage Management for Shifting Weather Patterns <i>Dr. Chris Teutsch, University of Kentucky</i>	
11:00 AM	Breeding a Functional Cow that Works in Your Environment <i>Cody Rakes, Loretto Motherhouse Farm</i>	
11:40 AM	Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council Business Meeting & Awards	
12:00 PM	Lunch & Visit with Sponsors	
1:00 PM	Forage Spokesperson Contest/Local Producers	SPACE IS LIMITED REGISTER TODAY
2:00 PM	What We Have Learned About Bale Grazing <i>Dr. Greg Halich, University of Kentucky</i>	
2:45 PM	Managing Feed Costs in Ruminant Livestock Production Systems <i>Jim Gerrish, American GrazingLands Services</i>	
3:30 PM	Adjourn	

Upcoming Office Events

	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5
MON		6: 	13: Extension District Board Meeting 11-12 (RSVP)	20: Homeschool Meeting 2-3	27: Big Blue Book Club 12:30-1:30 (RSVP)
TUE		7: Pathways to Sewing 9-11 Game Day 9-12 4-H Splashin It! 1-4:30 (RSVP) 4-H Teen Night: Stress Management 5-7 (RSVP)	14: Pathways to Sewing 9-11 Master Cattleman Series: Night 4 5:00-8:30 (RSVP, \$100 one-time fee)	21: Bags of Love 9:30-1:30 Laugh and Learn 11-12 (Library) 4-H Lego Club 4:30-5:30 (RSVP) Master Cattleman Series: Night 5 5:00-8:30 (RSVP, \$100 one-time fee)	28: Pathways to Sewing 9-11 Master Cattleman Series: Night 6 5:00-8:30 (RSVP, \$100 one-time fee)
WED	1. Chair Yoga 10-11 (\$3) McCracken County Civic Beautification Board 10-11	8: Chair Yoga 10-11 (\$3) Tech Class: AI Basics 11-12 (RSVP) 4-H Legal Careers 9-3 Day 1(RSVP) 4-H Teen Night: Resumes 5-7 (RSVP)	15: Chair Yoga 10-11 (\$3) Scrapbooking 9-3	22: Chair Yoga 10-11 (\$3)	29: Chair Yoga 10-11 (\$3)
THURS	2. Needlework Circle 10-12 Crochet Alley & Knit Row 1-3 4-H Art Club 5-6 (RSVP)	9: 4-H Legal Careers 1-4 day 2(RSVP) 4-H Family Night 5-7 (RSVP)	16: Game Day 9-12 Needlework Circle 10-12 Crochet Alley & Knit Row 1-3	23: 	30:
FRI	3: 	12: 4-H Forensic Science Day 8-12 (RSVP) Arts and Crafts: Holiday Decor 9:30-12 (RSVP, fee based on decoration) 4-H Teen Night: Budgeting 5-7 (RSVP)	17: Scrapbooking Crop 17 th 9am-10pm & 18 th 9am-5pm (RSVP,\$60)	24: CharmGello Genesis Quilt Day 1, 10-4 (RSVP, \$25 for 2-day class)	31:

Event Calendar for October 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

Apple Crumb Dessert

Servings:4**Serving Size:**1/4 of recipe

Ingredients:

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 4 medium apples for baking
- 1/2 cup quick-cooking oatmeal (uncooked)
- 1/4 cup light or dark brown sugar, packed
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1/3 cup 100% apple juice

Directions:

1. Move the oven rack to the center of the oven. Preheat the oven to 350° F.
2. Spray the bottom and sides of a 9-inch square baking dish with nonstick cooking spray.
3. Wash and peel the apples. Cut them into thin slices.
4. Spread the apple slices evenly over the bottom of the baking dish.
5. In a small bowl, use a fork to mix the oatmeal, brown sugar and cinnamon.
6. Spread the oatmeal mix evenly over the apples in the baking dish.
7. Lightly pour the apple juice over the oatmeal mixture.
8. Cover the dish and bake for 20-30 minutes until apples start to soften.
9. Uncover and bake for another 15-20 minutes until apples are soft.

Source: LEAP...for Health: USDA Mixing Bowl. What's Cooking? Fat-Free Apple Crumb Dessert
<http://www.whatscooking.fns.usda.gov/recipes/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap/fat-free-apple-crumb-dessert>.

Tips

A baking apple holds its shape and does not breakdown into puree when heated in an oven. Braeburn, Cortland, Gala, Golden Delicious, Granny Smith, Honeycrisp, Jonagold, Jonathan, Pink Lady, Rome and Winesap are good apple varieties for baking.

Nutrition Facts Per Serving: 130 calories; 0.Sg fat; 0g saturated fat; 0g trans fat; 0mg cholesterol; 0mg sodium; 33g carbohydrate; 3g fiber; 23g sugar; 9g added sugars; 1g protein; 0% Daily Value of vitamin D; 2% Daily Value of calcium; 6% Daily Value of iron; 4% Daily Value of potassium.



**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

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English.
University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.
Lexington, KY 40506

