

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 New Agent

Hello everybody! In case we haven't met, my name is Gracey Moffitt and I am the new 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

The last 7 months have been an absolute whirlwind as the new ANR Agent. In this amount of time I have had the opportunity to partner with other agents in the office along with other agents in surrounding counties for events and programs. This past month I hosted my first large event: Ag Day. This event was an all day event where 300 4th graders from 3 elementary schools throughout the county came to the extension office to learn a little bit more about agriculture (as pictured above). This month I am starting the 4-H Forestry Project days to learn about native KY trees and their uses. I am excited to help these kids with their projects for the upcoming county fair! Soon to come, I will be planting pepper variety trial test plots here at the office for further research along with a Cut Flower Project. I am also working getting dates and speakers lined up for a Homesteading Class Series here at the extension office. Stay tuned for more!

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Ag & Natural Resources Events and News for Everyone

UK Cooperative Extension Service

SUSTAINABLE GARDENING



Join us for a wonderful educational presentation by Dr. Krista Jacobsen from the Dept. of Horticulture at the University of Kentucky.

MAY 2ND, 2024 @ 5:30PM
Calloway County Extension Campus
93 Extension Way
Murray, KY 42071

WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS:

- SUSTAINABLE GARDEN TECHNIQUES
- COVER CROP USAGE
- INCORPORATING ORGANIC GARDENING TECHNIQUES

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

Purchase Area FCS Agents present... **UK Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment University of Kentucky**

SPRING INTO GREEN: PRIDE OF KENTUCKY

Featuring...



*****Session Topics*****

Local Flowers - Local Honey Plate it up!--Kentucky Proud

Register at your local Extension Office by May 8. \$15 registration includes catered lunch from Artisan Kitchen.

May 15, 2024 9:30-1:45
McCracken Co. Extension Office
2025 New Holt Rd.
Paducah KY 42001

- Educational Resources
- New Ideas
- Catered Lunch
- Door Prizes
- Lots of Fun!

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4-H PROJECT DAYS: FORESTRY

LEAF COLLECTION & LEAF PRINTING

AGE 10+, CLASS SIZE IS LIMITED - CALL TO REGISTER

The purpose of this club is to collect leaves from native Kentucky trees. These leaf collections will be eligible for the McCracken County Fair. Must attend both sessions to complete the project and compete at fair.

CLASS INFORMATION

- Day 1:** May 24th
- Day 2:** June 13th
- Time:** 9-12
- Time:** 9-12
- Location:** Bob Noble Park (Main Entrance)
- Location:** McCracken County Extension Office

CONTACT US
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Email: gracey.moffitt@uky.edu

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UK Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

Ag Advisory Council Meeting

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE IN MCCRACKEN COUNTY?

You are invited to the Ag Advisory Council Meeting at the McCracken County Cooperative Extension Office on June 13th at 6pm. There will be a meal included as we discuss the importance of ag in McCracken county for youth, farmers, homesteaders, and the community as a whole. The goal of this council meeting is to discuss how we can embrace agriculture in the county.

TO RSVP, PLEASE CALL
270-554-9520

Gracey Moffitt
McCracken County Extension Agent for Ag and Natural Resources

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Livestock Events and News

Beware of Reducing Feed at Calving!

Source: *Dr. Les Anderson, Beef Extension Professor, University of Kentucky*

A common question that I have been asked about body condition and feeding cows at calving is about feeding. He had heard that he should reduce feed to his cows before calving to keep birthweights lower to reduce calving problems. He indicated that the BCS of his cows as they begin to calve was only 4. This is a frustrating question because it comes up often and nothing could be further from the truth.

Several researchers have addressed this issue over the last 20-30 years. Each of these experiments had cows that were fed to maintain weight, decrease weight, or increase weight right before calving began. The result of underfeeding cows before calving results in the exact problem the producer is trying to avoid. The research demonstrated that poor nutrition and low BCS precalving:

- Increased calving problems
- Decreased calf health (low colostrum consumption and poor-quality colostrum)
- Increased calf death loss
- Increased the number of days for females to resume estrous cycles.

One of the most extreme research trials on prebreeding nutrition in cows was conducted by Dr. Steve Loerch at The Ohio State University. At that time, the cost of hay was much higher than the cost of grain and Dr. Loerch was examining the impact of feeding corn as an alternative to hay for gestating and lactating cows. The cows used were large framed Charolais-cross cows and were either fed around 11 pounds of whole shelled corn, 2.5 pounds of a pelleted supplement, and 2 pounds of hay (dry matter basis) or offered hay and a salt and mineral mix free choice from November to April. Hay was predominantly first-cutting orchardgrass testing around 72% neutral detergent fiber (NDF) and 9.5% crude protein (CP). Cows fed free choice hay ate twice as much feed resulting in double the feed costs compared to limit feeding the corn-based diet.

In this study, cows consuming the corn-based diet had fewer calving problems than the cows consuming forage-based diets. Limit-feeding corn to meet the nutrient requirements of cows did not negatively impact calving performance, pregnancy rate, or calf weaning weight. I don't bring this trial up to endorse feeding gestating cows corn-based diets but rather to reinforce that feeding cows prior to calving does not increase calving problems even if cows are fed corn-based diets.

This producer indicated that his cows were at a BCS of 4 prior to calving and this is going to create some issues for him. Rebreeding performance of cows is greatly influenced by BCS at calving. Cows that are thin (BCS < 5; visible ribs) at calving take longer to resume estrous cycles and therefore are delayed in their ability to rebreed. As precalving BCS decreases, the number of days from one calving to the next (calving interval) increases in beef cows. Females with a precalving BCS <5 tend to have production cycles greater than 1 year. For example, cows with a precalving BCS of 3 would be expected to have a calving interval of approximately 400+ days, while a cow with a precalving BCS of 6 would have a calving interval of approximately 360 days. Thin cows are anestrous for a longer period of time and are therefore more likely to be open at the end of the breeding season. They may also result in lighter calves to sell the next year because the calves from these thin cows will be born later in the calving season.

Let's consider the impact of anestrus and calving date for a herd in BCS 4 that calves from March 1 until May 10. Bull turnout is May 20 and the length of anestrus for mature cows (BCS 4) is 90-120 days and for young cows is 120-150 days. A mature cow (BCS 4) that calves on March 1 will begin to cycle sometime in the month of June and will likely conceive later than desired. However, the thin mature cow that calves on April 20 won't cycle until end of July/middle of August and her opportunity to conceive is minimal. Thin two-year olds nursing their first calf will likely begin cycles 4-5 months after calving and will have limited opportunities to conceive.

Reducing nutrients before calving is a huge mistake but this strategy has been circulating in the beef industry for decades. At first glance, it seems logical, but no research supports the notion of limit-feeding cows prior to calving and this dogma has cost the industry millions of dollars. So, beware of reducing feed to your cows at calving. It won't impact calf size but will impact your cows ability to rebreed.

Livestock



USDA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Veterans Webinar Series

Register for a free webinar series for military veterans, transitioning service members, and military spouses on how to work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to prepare for a career in agriculture. This webinar series is designed to provide information about USDA Beginning Farmer and Rancher programs and resources for the military community.

Each week we will cover different topics, including:

- ★ Tuesday, April 23, 2024: USDA Military Veterans Agricultural Liaison overview, Boots to Business, and Veteran Business Outreach Center
- ★ Tuesday, April 30, 2024: Veterans Administration loans, Rural Development loans
- ★ Tuesday, May 7, 2024: Urban Agriculture, USDA Beginning Farmer and Rancher programs
- ★ Tuesday, May 14, 2024: Natural Resources Conservation Service programs
- ★ Tuesday, May 21, 2024: Farm Service Agency loans and programs, Risk Management Agency programs

All sessions will be held 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Eastern.

Register at: https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_phaQxT_mS92FmrkfwDKMXA or scan the QR code.

You only need to register once for all five webinars. It's highly recommended to attend all five webinars.



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Row Crops & Forages

Events and News



Wheat Futures

Source: Dr. Grant Gardner

Date: 4/25/24

July wheat futures are currently at the same levels as February and March, and I think today/possibly tomorrow could be the last time lock in some higher priced, unsold bushels before harvest.

So what is happening? HRW areas in the Western Corn Belt have been dry causing yield speculation in wheats... Although this is mainly HRW, the wheat prices are correlated so SRW has followed.

Weather may continue to drive prices up and should be paid attention to, but rains are expected quickly. I currently do not see any other bullish tendencies besides weather speculation, and I fear this may be the last bump before harvest.

It may be a good time to lock in some unsold bushels. July Wheat Futures 2024 (pictured above).

Interested in crop pest news updates? Subscribe to the KY Pest News Weekly Newsletter at <https://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/extension/kpn>.

Are you interested in knowing what is going on in your field? Call me at 270-933-1386. I would be happy to come scout your crops with you to discuss what to do next.

Corn and Soybean Nematode Testing: Are you interested in corn or soybean nematode testing? We offer testing for these nematodes for FREE thanks to the KY Soybean Board and research being conducted by the university. If you are interested, contact me for more information!

Row Crops & Forages

UK Wheat Field Day

May 14, 2024

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- ♦ **Evolution of Carbon Markets: Are There Opportunities for Kentucky Wheat Producers?** - Dr. Jordan Shockley
- ♦ **Wheat Disease Update** - Dr. Carl Bradley
- ♦ **Wheat Breeding: Process and Methods** - Dr. Dave Van Sanford
- ♦ **Wheat Fertilization** - Dr. Edwin Ritchey
- ♦ **Residual Herbicide Timing for Ryegrass Control in Wheat** - Dr. Travis Legleiter
- ♦ **International, Domestic, and Local Trends That Inform Wheat Marketing Decisions** - Dr. Grant Gardner
- ♦ **Wheat Variety Trial (Walk Through) and Selection Process for Desirable Genetic Traits** - Bill Bruening

UKREC Farm

1205 Hopkinsville St,

Princeton, Ky 42445

9 am - NOON (Central time)

Registration: 8 am



EDUCATIONAL CREDITS:

CCA: PM 1hr, CM 0.5hr,

Prof Dev 0.5

Pesticide: 1 CEU cat 1A,

1CEU cat 10

For additional information contact Colette Laurent : (859) 562-1321 or claurent@uky.edu

Cooperative Extension Service

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

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Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification

Upcoming Office Events

	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5
MON		6: Quilting Club 10 Solar Eclipse Watch Party 11-3	13: District Board Meeting 11 (RSVP)	20: 4-H Middle School Book Club 4:30-6 (RSVP)	27:
TUE		7: Adult Sewing 9-11 Game Day 9-12 Toolbox Series: Perennial Cut Flowers 5-6 4-H Lego Club 4:30-5:30	14: Adult Sewing 9-11 Grounding Yoga 11-12 (RSVP, Rotary Health Park)	21: Bags of Love 9:30-1:30 Laugh and Learn: Sports 11-12 (Library) 4-H Lego Club 4:30-5:30 (RSVP)	28: Adult Sewing 9-11 Purchase Area Communications Day 6:30 (RSVP)
WED	1: KY Invasive Plant Training 9-4 Beautification Board Mtg 10	8: Tech Class: Smart Phones and Tablets 10-12 Sculpture Air Yoga 11-12 (RSVP) Horticulture Walking Club 11-12 (RSVP, Greenway Trail)	15: Spring Into Green 9-2 (RSVP) Scrapbooking 9-3 Paint Fan Dance 11-12 (RSVP) Horticulture Walking Club 11-12 (RSVP, Greenway Trail)	22: Sculpture Air Yoga 11-12 (RSVP) Horticulture Walking Club 11-12 (RSVP, Greenway Trail)	29: Adult Sewing 9-11 Horticulture Walking Club 11-12 (RSVP, Greenway Trail)
THURS	2: Needlework Club 10-12 Crochet Alley & Knit Row 1-3	9: Beading Circle 1-3	16: Game Day 9-12 Needlework Club 10-12 Crochet Alley & Knit Row 1-3	23: Global Kitchen Adventures: Polish Bagels 10-12 (RSVP) Beading Circle 1-3	30: Adult Sewing 9-11 Purchase Area Communications Day 6:30 (RSVP)
FRI	3: Homemaker Lesson: Bone Health 10 (RSVP)	10: Arts & Crafts: Zinnia Pine Cone Flowers 9:30 (RSVP) CPR, AED & First Aide 1-5 & 5:30-9:30 (RSVP)	17: Global Kitchen Adventures: French Crepes 10-12 (RSVP)	24:	31: Adult Sewing 9-11 Global Kitchen Adventures: Mexican Tamales 10-12 (RSVP)

Event Calendar for May 2024

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.ca.uky.edu>

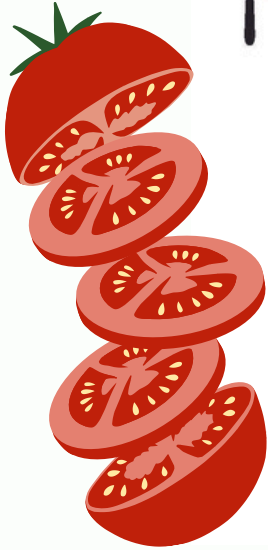
Recipe of the Month

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT, LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Recipe

ASPARAGUS TOMATO STIR-FRY



- $\frac{3}{4}$ pound fresh asparagus
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup chicken or vegetable broth
- 1 tablespoon lite soy sauce
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon black pepper
- 1 teaspoon cornstarch
- 4 green onions
- 2 Roma tomatoes
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups fresh mushrooms
- 1 tablespoon olive oil

1. Trim asparagus and cut into 1 inch pieces.
2. Combine broth, soy sauce, ginger, garlic, pepper and cornstarch in a small bowl to make sauce.
3. Chop green onions and tomatoes into $\frac{1}{2}$ inch pieces. Slice mushrooms.

4. Pour oil into a wok or large skillet and preheat over medium-high heat.
5. Add asparagus and green onions; stir-fry 4 minutes.
6. Add mushrooms; stir-fry 1 additional minute or until asparagus is tender-crisp.
7. Push vegetables to the outer sides of the wok. Add sauce in center, cook until thick and bubbly. Add tomatoes.
8. Stir well and heat through.

Yield: 4, $\frac{3}{4}$ cup servings.

Nutritional Analysis: 70 calories, 4 g fat, 0.5 g saturated fat, 0 mg cholesterol, 210 mg sodium, 7 g carbohydrate, 2 g fiber, 3 g sugars, 3 g protein.



Have you seen me? Poison Hemlock

Hello, my name is Poison Hemlock. As my name implies, I am very poisonous like my close friends Poison Ivy and Poison Oak. I am poisonous to humans, livestock, and wildlife. I can cause blisters if you come in contact with me, and can be lethal if ingested. Luckily, there are a few ways to identify me from one of my common look-alikes, Queen Anne's Lace (Wild Carrot).

Poison hemlock

- Biennial
- Finely-divided, lacy leaves
- Green stems and leaves lack hairs
- Hollow stems
- Exudes unpleasant odor when crushed
- 6-10 feet tall at maturity
- Flowers June through August
- White, delicate, "umbrella-like" flowers

Wild carrot (Queen Anne's lace)

- Biennial
- Finely-divided, lacy leaves
- Fine hairs on leaves
- Solid green stems
- Root smells like carrot
- 1-2 feet tall at maturity
- Flowers July through September
- White, delicate, "umbrella-like" flowers



It is also important to know how to get rid of me, the best options include herbicide treatment or by digging up and wearing appropriate clothing. Make sure to dispose of it properly, and DO NOT BURN. Burning it will increase the inhalation hazard risk. If you have any questions or concerns, reach out to your Ag Agent at your local Extension Office.

Wild carrot (Queen Anne's lace, left), a Michigan noxious weed, is often mistaken for poison hemlock (right) and vice versa. Photos by Missouri Department of Conservation (left) and Eric Anderson, MSU Extension (right).