

# THE FARMACY

## DECEMBER NEWS

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College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment

Cooperative Extension Service  
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## Agent Remarks

I hope you all have been well. It has been a couple months since my last newsletter and life is finally starting to slow down. Since you last heard from me, my husband and I got married and moved into our new home. Both of these things have taken a significant amount of stress off my plate now that they are done. I feel like I can breathe a little easier now.

Winter is here in full swing, bringing the holiday season with it. I know this time of year is busy for everyone. It is a busy time at our office as well. Between construction and meetings things have been quite eventful these past few months. After the New Year I hope to continue to be busy with winter programming. Please check out the events section of this newsletter to keep up with all the winter programming happening at the office.

This newsletter contains quite a few articles pertaining to grain crops. Including some economic outlook articles for 2026, as well as how farmers fared this past harvest season. It also contains an article about the economic assistance that the USDA just released for row crop farmers. Also check out the articles pertaining to livestock health, feeding, and management for this winter.

I hope you all stay safe this holiday season!

Brittany

  
**UK Ag**  
**EXTENSION**



### In This Issue

Agent Remarks.....	1
Crops.....	2
Ag Economics and Policy.....	3
Forage News.....	4
December Recipe.....	5
Conservation Corner.....	5-6
Livestock.....	7
Natural Resources.....	8
Events.....	9-13



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





# Crops

## Seed Size and Crop Yield in Kentucky in 2025

-Dennis Egli

The year 2025 might turn out to be the year of the 'small seeds'. Some producers harvested seeds that are smaller than normal. The explanation for this phenomenon lies in the interaction between the vagaries of the weather and the stage of crop development. Click [HERE](#) to read more!



## How Southern Row-Crop Producers Fared in 2025

-University Economists Throughout the South

Row-crop producers across the South faced another difficult year in 2025. Weather challenges led to wide yield variability across much of the region. Even where yields were strong, low commodity prices and persistently high input costs kept margins tight, leaving many operations near or below breakeven for a third straight year. Shifts in acreage were common, with corn gaining ground at the expense of cotton and, in some areas, soybeans.

Financial stress remains a major concern heading into 2026, as limited storage capacity, tighter credit conditions, and low prices continue to pressure farm profits. To capture conditions across the south, we asked Extension agricultural economists in each state to provide a brief summary of the 2025 season. Their state-by-state perspectives are below.

Click [HERE](#) to read more!





# Ag Economics and Policy

## Administration Providing Economic Assistance Payments to Struggling Farmers

-Joe Outlaw and Bart L. Fischer

On Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, President Trump and USDA Secretary Rollins announced the creation of the Farmer Bridge Assistance (FBA) Program, a new round of economic assistance totaling \$12 billion for the 2025 crop, with \$11 billion for row crop farmers. While details such as individual commodity payment rates have not been made available, it was announced that the structure of FBA would be similar to the Emergency Commodity Assistance Program (ECAP) that producers received earlier this year due to low commodity prices received for the 2024 crop.

Click [HERE](#) to read more!



## UK Economists Point to Livestock Strength, Row Crop Strain in 2026

-Jennifer Elwell



Strong cattle, poultry and horse sales dominated for much of 2025, leading economists to predict Kentucky agricultural sales will be \$8.3 billion for the year despite lower grain prices burdened by supply outpacing demand.

Will Snell, Ph.D., extension economist at the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, said that while final 2024 agricultural cash receipts — reported at \$7.9 billion by the Economic Research Service in September — were slightly lower than the previous year, 2025 receipts offer hope for recovery and may rival the record high cash receipts in 2022.

Click [HERE](#) to read more!

# Forage News

## Small Ruminant Winter Grazing Management

-Rory Lewandowski & Brady Campbell

In our pasture for profit grazing schools, it is often said that mechanical harvest of stored forages is about three times more expensive as compared to livestock harvest of forage in a managed grazing system. From this perspective, winter grazing offers an opportunity to improve the bottom line of pasture-based livestock production.

Click [HERE](#) to read more!



## Hay with a Side of Vitamin A

-Amber Friedrichsen

Slow pasture growth due to drought conditions limits more than forage yield and grazing potential — it can reduce beta carotene levels in plants and raise the risk of vitamin A deficiencies in cattle. An early start to the hay-feeding season when fall pastures fizzle out may also warrant more diligent vitamin A supplementation to ensure cows meet their needs this winter.

In an article from Kansas State University Extension, Emma Briggs says vitamin A deficiencies can result in reduced feed intake, slow animal growth, and reproductive issues like low conception rates and stillborn calves.

Click [HERE](#) to read more!



## Forage Timely Tips

- 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



# Chicken and Brussels Sprouts One Pan Meal

**2** skinless, boneless  
chicken breasts  
(about 1 pound)

**1 tablespoon** olive oil  
Salt and pepper to taste

**12-14** Brussels sprouts,  
trimmed and quartered

**1 cup** sliced fresh  
mushrooms

**1** red bell pepper, diced,  
about 1 cup

**1** medium yellow onion,  
diced, about 1 cup

**2** cloves garlic, minced

**½ cup** half-and-half

**¼ teaspoon** nutmeg

**¾ cup** Parmesan cheese

**Preheat** oven to 425 degrees F.

**Cut** chicken into bite-sized pieces.

**Heat** oil in a heavy, oven-safe skillet  
or pan over medium heat. **Add** chicken  
and sauté 3-4 minutes. Lightly **season**  
with salt and pepper. **Add** vegetables

and **stir** gently to combine. **Cook**  
3-5 minutes until vegetables are tender.

**Remove** from heat. If skillet or pan  
is not oven-safe, transfer mixture to a  
baking dish. In a small bowl, **combine**  
half-and-half, nutmeg and salt and

pepper to taste. **Pour** mixture over  
chicken and vegetables. **Sprinkle** with  
Parmesan cheese. **Bake** 25-30 minutes  
until lightly golden on top. **Serve** hot.

**Yield:** 6, 1 cup servings

## **Nutritional Analysis:**

220 calories, 9 g fat, 3.5 g saturated fat,  
0 g trans fat, 70 mg cholesterol,  
340 mg sodium, 11 g carbohydrate,  
3 g fiber, 4 g sugars, 23 g protein.

## **Local Cost Share**

Programs Include:

Gateway, Barn Entrance & Heavy Traffic  
Corridor Erosion Control Program  
Pipeline and Waterer  
Cover Crop  
Pasture Renovation

## **State Cost Share**

Applications accepted for 2026  
funding until October 30, 2025

4 Areas of Interest:

Livestock – Animal Feeding  
Operations (AFO)  
Livestock – Pastureland BMP  
Cropland BMP  
Forestland BMP

# Conservation Corner

Here are some ways the Scott County  
Conservation District can help you!

## **Backyard Conservation**

Programs Include:

Plant a Tree – 50% cost-share up to \$100

Pollinator Plot – 50% cost-share up to \$100

Rain Barrel Kit – 50% cost-share up to \$25.00

Garden Cover Crop – Free bags of wheat seed

**Scott County Conservation District**

100 E Penn Ave (M-F 9:00 – 2:00pm),

502-863-2466, [scottcountycd@yahoo.com](mailto:scottcountycd@yahoo.com)



**2025 County Agriculture  
Investment Program (CAIP)  
and  
2025 Next Generation  
Farmer Program (NextGen)**

Applications will be available for Scott County's 2025 CAIP and 2025 NextGen programs to assist farmers in making important on-farm investments.

**Application Period:**

**January 5 – January 30, 2026**

**Application Availability:**

Scott County Conservation District Office

Office located at 100 East Penn Avenue

Monday – Friday (9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

or

e-mail: [scottcountycd@yahoo.com](mailto:scottcountycd@yahoo.com) for an application

**All applications need to be turned into the office directly or in the drop box**

**Eligible Investment Areas:**

Agriculture Diversification

AgriTech & Leadership Development

Animal, Large (Cattle-Beef&Dairy, Equine)

Animal, Small (Goat, Sheep, Swine, Rabbits, Bees)

Farm Infrastructure

Fencing & On-Farm Water

Forage & Gain Improvements

Innovative Agricultural Systems

On-Farm Energy

Poultry & Other Fowl

Value Added & Marketing

**For more information:**

Contact Darcy Smith at 502-863-2466

Information also available online at [www.kyagr.com/agpolicy](http://www.kyagr.com/agpolicy)



# Livestock

## Equine Winter Wellness Tips

-Olivia Watson

Depending on where you live, equine care in the colder months can be difficult. Luckily, horses can adapt to a wide range of temperatures. However, human intervention is sometimes necessary to keep our horses safe and comfortable in winter.

Click [HERE](#) to read more!



## Preparing for Lambing Season

-Penn State Extension



Lambing time is often the busiest season of the year. With some preparations beforehand, and some attention to details, lambing season can run smoothly.

Producers should prepare for the first lambs to arrive a few days prior to the full 144 days gestation, although gestation can range from 144 to 150 days.

As producers prepare for lambing, there are a few main points to keep in mind.

Click [HERE](#) to read more!

## What to do When Calves Are Born Weak

-Dr. Michelle Arnold

“Weak Calf Syndrome” is a term applied to a calf born alive but lacks vigor, is slow to stand, and may not attempt to nurse. Affected herds may also see an increase in stillborn calves. The known factors contributing to the development of weak calves include inadequate nutrition for the dam during pregnancy, difficult calving (known as “dystocia”) and infectious diseases, especially BVD virus.

Click [HERE](#) to read more!





# NATURAL RESOURCES

## Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife: Deer Summary

-Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife

Deer hunters in Kentucky had a very productive November with over 105,000 deer harvested across the Commonwealth. The majority of these were taken during Kentucky's 16-day Modern Gun season, where most of the season's harvest occurs. The total harvest from the season opener in early September through the end of November stands at 129,577 deer, nearly 1,500 animals more than the 10-year average.

Click [HERE](#) to read more!

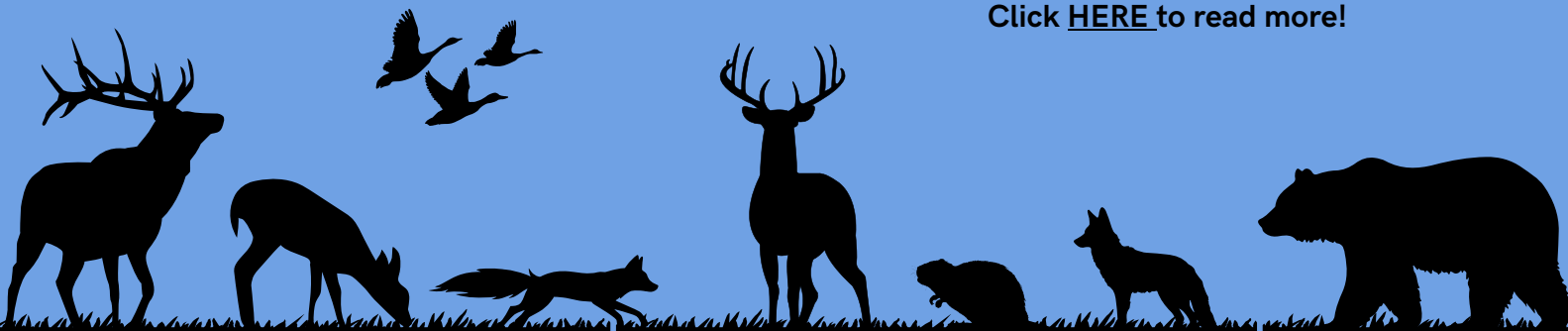


## 2025-2026 Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation Black Vulture Depredation Sub-Permit Process

-Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation

Kentucky Farm Bureau has received a statewide depredation permit that allows for a limited number of black vulture "takes" where black vultures are depredating on livestock. Livestock producers who are experiencing depredation may apply for a Livestock Protection depredation sub-permit that, if approved, will allow producers to protect livestock against black vulture attacks. This program allows for takes of black vultures or incidental takes of turkey vultures only. No other protected migratory bird species is authorized to be taken under this program.

Click [HERE](#) to read more!





# Scott County Conservation District

2025 Frontier MS1227 – 270 Bushel Chain Unloading

## Manure Spreader Rental

Call the office (502-863-2466) to set up a time to pick up the manure spreader and sign the lease agreement for one (1) to three (3) day rental period.

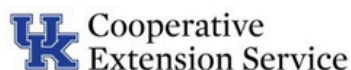
Rental Rate = \$100.00 per day (1-to-3-day rental period)

Deposit = \$300.00 / refundable upon condition of equipment

Late Fee = \$60.00 per day

Clean-up Fee = \$ 70.00

# Upcoming Events



## SCOTT COUNTY BEEF IMPROVEMENT ANNUAL MEETING

**Join us for a night filled with fun and laughter!**

Date: January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Time: 6:00p.m.

Location: Scott County Extension Office  
1130 Cincinnati Rd.  
Georgetown, KY 40324



**CAIP APPROVED**

Please RSVP to the Scott County Extension Office by calling 502-863-0984 by January 5th!

**Meal and Door Prizes**

**Sponsored by:**



**MEADE**  
TRACTOR

**CAIP Eligible**

The Scott County Extension Office will be closed from

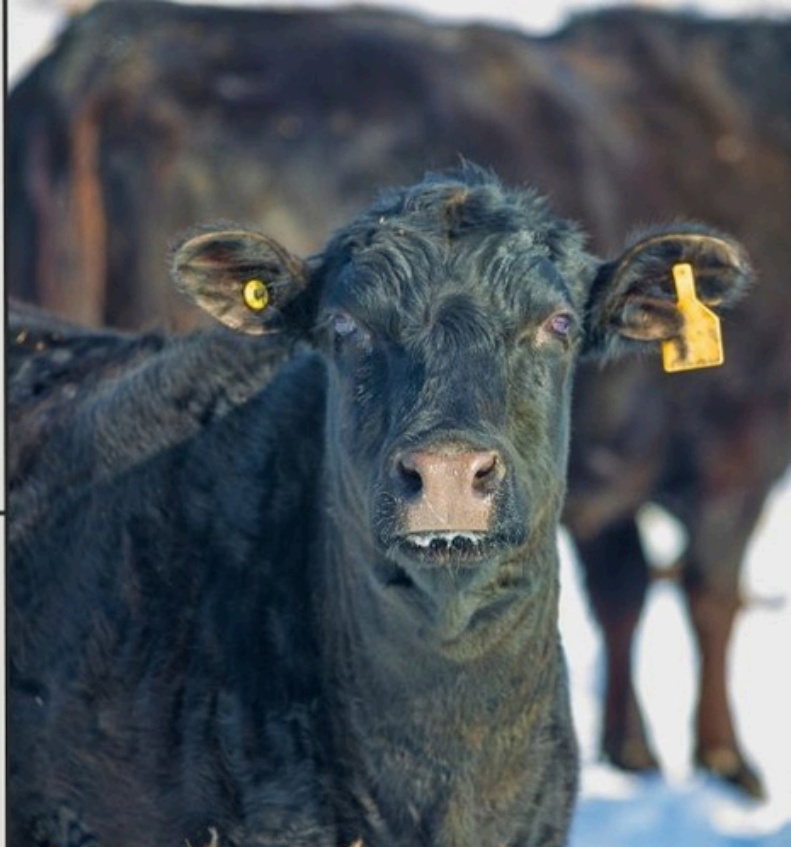
December 24<sup>th</sup> - January 2<sup>nd</sup>



# Beef Quality Assurance Training

Session 1: January 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm  
Session 2: February 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am

Sessions will be held at the Scott County Extension Office, 1130 Cincinnati Rd. Georgetown, KY. Individuals with an expiring BQCA Certification will receive information in the mail. For questions or to RSVP call the Scott County Extension Office at 502-863-0984.



**CAIP  
Eligible**

# Passing the Farm Forward

Join us for a workshop designed to help farm families prepare for the future. Whether you're thinking about retirement, transferring land, or ensuring your family's legacy continues, these session will guide you through the essentials of estate and succession planning.

This workshop is ideal for multi-generational farm families, landowners, and anyone involved in agricultural operations.

Bring your questions—and your family—and take the first step toward securing your farm's future.

*Starting the Conversation and Determining What is Fair*  
with Aleta Botts and Brittany Brewer

January 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:30

*Estate Plans, Wills, and Power of Attorney*

with Keith Jeffries

February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:30

*Taxes, LLC, and Trusts*

with Jonathon Shepherd

February 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30

*Funeral Planning, Life Insurance and Long-Term Care*

with Mike McKinley

February 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30

 ELDER CARE LAW  
OF KENTUCKY



**UK Ag**  
AG ECONOMICS

Sessions will be held at the Scott County Extension Office,  
1130 Cincinnati Rd. Georgetown, KY 40324.

Sessions will be free and will include a meal.

Planning on attending please RSVP by the Friday before each session!

**RSVP by calling the Scott County Extension Office at 502-863-0984**

**or by emailing [brittany.brewer@uky.edu](mailto:brittany.brewer@uky.edu)**

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# Private Applicator Training

 Cooperative  
Extension Service



Session 1: January 22nd at 6:30pm

Session 2: February 20th at 8:30am

Sessions will be held at the Scott  
County Extension Office, 1130  
Cincinnati Rd. Georgetown, KY.

You only need to attend one session.  
If your certification is expiring you will  
receive information in the mail about  
it. For questions or to RSVP call the  
Scott County Extension Office at  
502-863-0984.

## KENTUCKY CATTLEMANS ANNUAL MEETING

JANUARY 15<sup>TH</sup> & 16<sup>TH</sup>  
AT THE OWENSBORO  
CONVENTION  
CENTER IN  
OWENSBORO, KY

**CAIP  
Eligible**

# HAY AUCTION

**Madison County Fairgrounds  
Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup> 2026 at 9am**

### Accepting:

- All types and kinds of hay bales and baleage
- Alfalfa/Grass, Alfalfa
- Timothy Mix
- Mixed grasses
- Clover mix
- Straw
- Orchardgrass
- Summer Annuals



### \*No hay or straw accepted on day of sale\*

- Consignments accepted Monday, January 12 - Friday, January 16 from 10am - 5pm.
- Nutrient content will be tested by the University of Kentucky on hay consigned Monday-Thursday morning.
- Bale weight and nutrient content will be listed for each lot prior to sale.
- Auction held rain, snow, or shine.
- Located at the Madison County Fairgrounds: 3237 Old Irvine Road, Richmond, KY 40475.

For more information, call Alfred Winkler at (859) 661-3361 or  
the Madison County Extension Office at (859) 623-4072

# Save The DATE

Winter Wheat Meeting:

Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026

Wheat Field Day:

May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Corn, Soybean, &  
Tobacco Field Day:

July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026

**CAIP  
Eligible**

# Lunchtime Learning: Field to Finance Series



Cooperative  
Extension Service

## Business Planning & Understanding Financial Documents

January 9<sup>th</sup>

Bourbon County Extension  
Office

**Presenters:**

KCARD & Local Ag Lender

## Understanding and Reducing Taxes on the Farm & Hidden Costs That All Farms Must Understand

January 16<sup>th</sup>

Harrison County Extension  
Office

**Presenters:**

Dr. J. Sheppard & Dr. J. Shockley

**CAIP  
Eligible**

## Disaster Preparations on the Farm & Insurance Considerations

January 23<sup>rd</sup>

Scott County Extension  
Office

**Presenters:**

FSA & Local Insurance Provider

## On Farm Record Keeping Options

January 30<sup>th</sup>

Harrison County Extension  
Office

**Presenters:**

Agents

**Each session will be held from 11 AM - 1 PM &  
lunch will be provided**

**REGISTER BY CONTACTING THE LOCATION YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND:**



**Bourbon**

Lindsay Arthur

[lindsay.arthur@uky.edu](mailto:lindsay.arthur@uky.edu)

859-987-1895



**Harrison**

Jessica Barnes

[jessica.barnes2@uky.edu](mailto:jessica.barnes2@uky.edu)

859-234-5510



**Scott**

Brittany Wyatt

[brittany.brewer@uky.edu](mailto:brittany.brewer@uky.edu)

502-863-0984



# INTENSIVE SOYBEAN MANAGEMENT WORKSHOPS

BOWLING GREEN  
WED., JAN. 14  
SLOAN CONV. CTR.  
LUNCH-4 P.M.



**Alex Harrell**

Alex Harrell is the current soybean world-record holder with a 2024 documented yield of 218.2856 bushels per acre. That record beat HIS OWN previous world record of 206.7997, so we think it's a safe bet that everyone can learn something from him.

Harrell used different practices and fertilizer techniques for these two bin-busting numbers, and even different genetic and herbicide traits, but kept his row spacing at 30".

Come hear him in Bowling Green the day before the Kentucky Commodity Conference. He'll talk about his experiences with double strip tilling, banded fertility, and his winning mix of seed, in-furrow, 3x3 mix, and herbicide mix broadcast behind the planter.

What is the "secret sauce?" Probably a combination of the above and his soil type, tissue sampling, foliar feeding schedule, and judicious use of pivots. "The beans got what they needed, on the DAY they needed it," he said. After all the agronomics are dissected and the numbers analyzed, the reality is simple. In 2024, Harrell grew the highest yielding soybeans in the history of the world, and he has great advice for your corn crop, too.



Click the code or visit  
[KySoy.org](http://KySoy.org) to register



2026 ISM

**CAIP  
Eligible**

These events are sponsored  
by the



CLARK CO.  
WED., JAN. 28  
EXTENSION OFFICE  
8:30 A.M.- LUNCH



**Dan Coffin**

This presentation will offer a few new things to consider. First will be an update on soybean physiology that impacts yield determination in the life of the bean plant. Understanding it will make a difference in how beans respond the rest of the year and in how we feed and manage the plant to give us back higher, harvestable yield.

Second, we will look at no till systems and the connection to feeding the crop, while developing the soil simultaneously. If we are focusing only on the soil test levels in no till, we are passing up yield potential. The goal to increase productivity across the board.

Finally, we will look at the influence on nutrient availability and soil development in no till compared to conventionally tilled systems and the impact on long term fertility needs. Developing deeper soils is much preferred over just buying nutrients to impact the surface rhizosphere and changing soil test numbers.