

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2024

 Cooperative
Extension Service

LaRue County
P.O. Box 210, 807 Old Elizabethtown Rd.
Hodgenville, KY 42748-0210
(270) 358-3401
larue.ca.uky.edu



AGENT REMARKS

A new year brings new beginnings at the time this letter reaches mailboxes we will be right in the thick of cold weather. The past few months we have fallen short on rainfall but it seems the extended forecast shows improvement from that aspect. All in all 2023 showed positive results for most producers in LaRue County strong crop yields offset a weak price market in both corn and soybeans. Cattle markets were a bright spot in 2023 as nationwide cow herd numbers approached record lows and a beef consumer based less affected by high retail prices. According to the recently published Ag Economic Situation and Outlook from UK Department of Agricultural Economics 2024 looks to follow in the footsteps of 2023 as regression from 2021 and 2022 net farm incomes record levels. The next two months are stacked full of educational conferences and meetings across the state, for opportunities check out the calendar and contact the office for assistance at (270)358-3401. Best wishes for a prosperous New Year!!



Adam Thomas
LaRue County Extension Agent
for Agriculture & Natural
Resources Education

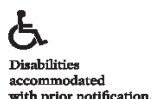
EXTENSION OFFICE CLOSED
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY
1/15/2024

**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



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 9 th	LaRue County Cattleman's Meeting- 7pm
January 11-12 th	KY Cattleman's Convention- Lexington, KY
January 17 th -	Intensive Soybean Management Workshop- Bowling Green, KY
January 18 th	KY Commodity Conference- Bowling Green, KY
January 19 th	KY Pork Producers Annual Meeting- Bowling Green, KY
January 22 nd	LaRue County Leadership Banquet- LaRue County Extension Office
January 23 rd	Private Applicator Training- LaRue County Extension Office
February 1 st	UK Winter Wheat Meeting- Hopkinsville, KY
February 7 th	Intensive Soybean Management Workshop- Hardin County Extension Office
February 8 th	Alfalfa/Stored Forage Conference- Bowling Green, KY
February 8 th	Kentucky Crop Health Conference- Bowling Green, KY
February 13 th	Private Applicator Training- LaRue County Extension Office
February 13 th	LaRue County Cattleman's Meeting- 7 pm
February 14 th -17 th	National Farm Machinery Show- KY Exposition Center, Louisville
February 27 th	Private Applicator Training- LaRue County Extension Office



NUISANCE WEED SPRAYING PROGRAM

This program is ran through the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and consists of weed spraying demonstration plots. The department will provide the sprayer and enough chemical for the treatment of 10 acres of agricultural land or 100 gallons of spot spraying mix to be used on agricultural land. The department's representative will demonstrate proper mixing and application techniques. A number of nuisance weeds can be treated under this program depending on the needs of the participant. This program is limited to broadleaf weeds.

The broadcast spraying demonstration plots consist of:

- 10 acres of agricultural land will be treated with chemical provided by the department
- Application is performed with a two-wheeled trailer type sprayer equipped with boomless nozzles

If additional chemical is provided by the participant, an additional 10 acres can be treated

Spot Spraying demonstration plots consist of:

- 100 gallons of broadleaf chemical mix which is applied until sprayer is empty
- Application is performed with a two-wheeled trailer type sprayer equipped with a handheld spray wand used by the tractor operator

If additional chemical is provided by the participant, an additional 100 gallons can be sprayed

For each demonstration:

- The participant must provide water source
- The participant must provide tractor and operator
- All chemical products must be labeled and the product label will be strictly followed

A maximum of 7 participants per county.

This program is designed to target weeds that have a negative impact on the participant's agricultural production. There will be an annual online application period to participate in this program. You may submit an application using KDA's web site at www.kyagr.com, click on the "online services" tab located on the top menu bar and finally click on "nuisance weed spraying program". The only time to apply for this program is between **February 1 to February 29** of each year.

WINTER WHEAT MEETING

Feb 1, 2024



TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Keynote Speaker - Rick Siemer
- Wheat Crop Update
- Preparing Grain Producers for the Evolution of Carbon Markets
- Soil Ph Management
- Wheat Diseases Update
- Differences on Cereal Aphids Captured in Suction Traps vs Scout Sampling
- Capitalizing on Price Volatility in Soft Red Winter Wheat
- Kentucky Wheat a Perfect Scenario for Winter Annual Grass Weeds
- An Herbicide Resistance Screening Program for the Commonwealth of Kentucky
- Yield Contest Winners' Practices
- YEN – Dennis Pennington



Bruce Convention Center
Hopkinsville, KY 42240
9 am - 3 pm CT
Registration 8:30 CT



For additional information email claurent@uky.edu

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LEXINGTON, KY 40546



SAVE THE
DATE

KCHC

Kentucky Crop Health Conference

Feb. 8, 2024 - National Corvette Museum - Bowling Green, Ky.

Speakers include University of Kentucky Extension Specialists and invited nationally prominent Extension Specialists from across the United States



Thomas Butts
University of Arkansas

Topic: Drone Herbicide Applications: What Do We Need to Know for Success?



Nicholas Seiter
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Topic: Above- and below- ground traits for insect management in corn – new tools, old pests, and resistance



Gregory Tylka
Iowa State University

Topic: Soybean Cyst Nematode: Past, present, and future

Carl Bradley

University of Kentucky

Topic: Red Crown Rot of Soybean: Disease Management and Potential Impacts of this New Disease on Soybean Production in Kentucky



Travis Legleiter

University of Kentucky

Topic: Dealing with the Stretch - Early Planted Soybean and Weed Control

Raul Villanueva

University of Kentucky

Topic: Abundance of Emergent Pests in the 2022-23 Corn and Soybean seasons in Kentucky



Kiersten Wise

University of Kentucky

Topic: It's always something! New corn disease concerns for Kentucky



Tickets on sale Nov. 1, 2023

Scan QR Code or visit: <https://kchc2024.eventbrite.com>

(non-refundable after Jan. 25, 2024)

Lunch included - CCA and pesticide applicator CEUs will be available

EXCELLENT CORN & SOYBEAN YIELDS DESPITE LOW RAINFALL TOTALS

Both corn and soybean finished strong across Kentucky despite lower total rainfall amounts across most of the state. The 2023 Kentucky corn crop is estimated by the Kentucky Office of the United States Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA-NASS) at 183 bushels per acre, up 17% from 2022, making the second largest corn crop on record. The 2023 Kentucky soybean crop is estimated by USDA-NASS at 55 bushels per acre, a 7.8% increase from 2022. Yet, the Kentucky rainfall totals are below normal from April to September 2023 across most of the state.

Corn in Kentucky often experiences peak water demand in July while soybeans often need most water in July or August. On average across the state and in western Kentucky, rainfall was above average for those two months. The higher rainfall in April made planting a challenge but started off the season with excellent soil moisture. While temperatures from April to September averaged near normal to below normal for most of the state, they were below normal for April, May, and June, which caused the crops to demand less water. Both temperatures and rainfall increased to above normal in western Kentucky during July when corn needed water the most. August, historically the warmest month in Kentucky, experienced slightly cooler temperatures on average, allowing crops to stretch the seed filling period a little longer in many fields. For most of the state, these weather patterns were favorable for excellent crop production.

These first set of graphs do not tell the complete story and rainfall totals can be misleading sometimes. Fulton County received 30.54 inches of rain from April 1 to September 30, 2023, suggesting more than adequate rainfall. By comparison Union County, Marshall County and Todd County received 20.62 inches, 23.11 inches and 28.5 inches, respectively. These numbers suggest that Fulton County experienced the best growing conditions. However, Fulton County was hit with over 12 inches of rain in 3 days in early August. Receiving 40% of the total rainfall in 3 days is not healthy for the crops and skews the total amount of water used by the crops. In fact, that much rain that fast hurt yields in Fulton County. Fulton County reported the most rainfall of these counties, but corn and soybean likely were more stressed in Fulton County than in the other three. All four locations in experienced a dry spell from part of May into June. Fulton County had 11 days without rain, one day with 0.14 inches and 9 more days without rain. Todd County experienced 17 days without measurable rainfall. Marhsall County received no rain for 21 days from May 21 to June 10. Union County received 0.02 inches over 21 days from May 17 to June 6. Yet, each of these counties received measurable rains prior to and following the dry spells. Most of these counties received timely rainfall in July and the early part of August. Again, these rainfall events in July and August coincided with peak water demand for corn and soybeans in most fields. The heavy rainfall in late August may have helped double-crop soybeans but likely did little for the corn. As we mentioned earlier, the deluge in Fulton County was harmful to the crops.

Rainfall totals and average temperatures do not tell a complete story regarding yield. Timing and intensity of that rainfall combined with daily temperatures relative to crop development explain why corn and soybeans yielded so well in a season when rainfall totals were lower across most of the state. While most farmers, crop consultants and university agronomists stressed about having enough rain during the growing season, hindsight tells us that most fields received enough rain exactly when the crop needed it. If we knew the outcome before starting, I think all of us would gladly take this weather pattern again.



KY COMMODITY CONFERENCE

Thursday, January 18, 2024

HOLIDAY INN UNIVERSITY PLAZA & SLOAN CONVENTION CENTER
1021 Wilkinson Trace • Bowling Green, KY 42103 Phone: 270.745.0088

AGENDA *All times are CST*

7:00 a.m. **Early Riser Session**

Myron Stine

Sponsored by Wright Implement and AgriGold



8:00 a.m. **Registration & Trade Show Opens**

Welcome with coffee and donuts sponsored by FMC

9:30 a.m. **Marketing Session**

Matt Bennett

Sponsored by Syngenta and Hutson, Inc.



11 a.m. **Lunch & Keynote**

Eric Snodgrass

Remarks from Kentucky Ag Commissioner Jonathan Shell

Sponsored by Bayer Crop Science and Farm Credit Mid-America



1:00 p.m. **Ky. Soybean Association Annual Meeting**

2:00 p.m. **Ky. Corn Growers Association Annual Meeting, and Council Report**

3:00 p.m. **Ky. Small Grain Growers Association Annual Meeting, and Council Report**

Snacks sponsored by Stine

Coffee Break sponsored by Kentucky Pork Producers and Franklin Grain

3:45 p.m. **Research Highlights**

6:00 p.m. **Grower Appreciation Reception**

Sponsored by Corteva and Ohio Valley Insurance

6:30 p.m. **Awards Celebration** - Sponsored by Pioneer and H&R AgriPower

Attendance at the Kentucky Commodity Conference is free of charge to farmers, thanks to the generosity of our sponsors. Registration is required so that organizers can plan for adequate seating and meals.

UK BEEF MANAGEMENT WEBINAR SERIES

Registration is necessary, however, if you received this email directly from Darrh Bullock then you are already registered. If you received this from another source, or have not registered previously, then please send an email to dbullock@uky.edu with Beef Webinar in the subject line and your name and county in the message. You will receive the direct link with a password the morning of each meeting. This invitation will directly link you to the site and you will be asked for the password which can be found just below the link. Each session will be recorded and posted for later viewing. **All meeting times are 8:00pm ET/7:00pm CT.**

January 9, 2024 -**Management decisions that impact reproductive efficiency in beef herds** – George Perry, Professor, Texas A&M University

February 13, 2024 -**What's the Cost of a Cheap Mineral** – Katie VanValin, Assistant Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

FORAGE TIMELY TIPS: JANUARY

- ✓ Continue strip-grazing of stockpiled tall fescue for maximum utilization.
- ✓ Remove animals from very wet pastures to limit pugging and soil compaction.
- ✓ Feed best hay to animals with highest nutritional needs.
- ✓ Supplement poor quality hay as indicated by forage testing.
- ✓ Feed hay in areas where mud is less of a problem.
- ✓ Feed hay in poor pastures to increase soil fertility and enhance organic matter.
- ✓ Consider “bale grazing” - set out hay when the ground is dry or frozen. Use temporary fencing to allocate bales as needed.
- ✓ Use variety trial results to select seed for spring renovation.
- ✓ Prepare for pasture renovation by purchasing seeds, inoculant, etc. and getting equipment ready.

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Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English.

Inquiries regarding compliance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and other related matter should be directed to

Equal Opportunity Office, Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, University of Kentucky, Room S-105, Agriculture Science Building, North Lexington, Kentucky 40546,

the UK Office of Institutional Equity and Equal Opportunity, 13 Main Building, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0032 or

US Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.

2024 HEARTLAND MASTER CATTLEMEN PROGRAM



Schedule

 Cooperative Extension Service

- 2/20 >>> **Reproduction/Record Keeping**
Dr. Les Anderson
- 2/27 >>> **Winter Feeding**
Dr. Morgan Hayes
- 2/29 >>> **Marketing**
Kevin Laurent
- 3/5 >>> **Nutrition**
Dr. Katie VanValin
- 3/7 >>> **Health**
Dr. Michelle Arnold
- 3/12 >>> **Genetics**
Dr. Darrh Bullock

ATTENTION

HARDIN - MEADE - LaRUE

producers

\$75 *per person*

Checks payable to:
Heartland Master Cattlemen
-A meal provided at each session-

All sessions will be held at the
Hardin County Extension Service
6-9 pm ET

Contact your county Extension Office to register.

HARDIN COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE
111 OPPORTUNITY WAY | ELIZABETHTOWN, KY 42701



Hardin > 270-765-4121
Meade > 270-422-4958
LaRue > 270-358-3401

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



Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR CERTIFICATION

 Cooperative
Extension Service

20
24

PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR CERTIFICATION



LARUE COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE
807 OLD ELIZABETHTOWN ROAD, HODGENVILLE


1/23
5:30 - 8:30 PM
est


2/13
9AM-NOON
est


2/27
5:30 - 8:30 PM
est



CALL TO REGISTER: 270-358-3401

2024 EXTENSION LEADERSHIP & AWARDS BANQUET

The LaRue County Extension Leadership & Awards Banquet will be held on **Monday, January 22 at 6:30 pm** at the Extension Office.

The speaker for the evening will be Sierra Enlow on the topic of "Participation is the Prize". Sierra is a consultant advising growing companies looking to expand or relocate both in and outside of Kentucky, real estate developers planning new projects, and municipalities seeking to attract or retain businesses in their communities. Sierra recently ran for Commissioner of Agriculture, and she is a former LaRue County 4-H member and graduate of the University of Kentucky. She is a strong supporter of agriculture and remains committed to moving both the agriculture industry and the Commonwealth of Kentucky's economy forward.

There will be a meal catered by the LC Homemakers. The meal cost is \$10 per person that can be paid at the door.

If you'd like to attend, please call the Extension Office for reservations, 270-358-3401.

LaRue County
PO Box 210, 807 Old Elizabethtown Road
Hodgenville, KY 42748-0210

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

STAY SAFE DURING WINTER TRAVEL

Travel during the winter has unique risks, especially if you travel by car. Being prepared can help you “expect the unexpected” so your trip isn’t ruined by common problems travelers face in the winter.

Know before you go

From blizzards, to [avalanches](#), to ice storms, be aware of the [winter risks](#) in places you visit. Check the local weather forecasts and warnings before heading out. Visit [National Weather Service](#) for up to date forecasts and download the FEMA App for alerts in up to five locations.

- Check your local weather and traffic reports before heading out.
- If your roads are not in good shape, consider postponing non-essential travel until the roads are cleared. If you do have to go out, make sure you are prepared in case you become delayed while traveling.

Tell others your route and anticipated arrival time.

On the Road

- Make sure your vehicle is in good working condition before you travel.
- Keep your gas tank as full as you can. A full tank will also keep the fuel line from freezing.
- Install good winter tires and make sure they have enough tread.

When driving, [increase your following distance](#) from 3-4 seconds to 5-6 seconds. It takes longer to slow down and stop on icy roads.

Every vehicle should have an [emergency supply kit](#) in the trunk. Kits should be checked every six months and expired items should be replaced regularly.

- Keep family and emergency phone numbers, including your auto insurance provider and a towing company in your phone.
- Consider keeping a power bank for your phone in your car in case your car loses power.

[If stranded](#), run the engine for about 10 minutes per hour to run the heater and charge your cell phone. Open a window slightly to let fresh air in and avoid [carbon monoxide \(CO\) poisoning](#).