

AGENT REMARKS

Wrapping up February weather was wild with swings from snow to flooding rains and temps from bitter cold to spring like conditions. All that being said with current temps 60's spring season feels imminent. With the favorable forecast it is time to think about spraying early season weeds in pasture and hayfields. Weeds of concern should be buttercup, henbit, curly dock, purple deadnettle, chicory, and poison hemlock. Also take advantage of the conditions and give those wheat crops a boost with a nitrogen application. As we move throughout the month and soil conditions improve (less mud), consider getting those fertilizer applications on fields as well, soil testing services are available through the Extension Office. For farm visits or recommendations reach out to the Extension Service at (270) 358-3401.

Adam Thomas LaRue County Ex

LaRue County Extension Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources Education adam.thomas@uky.edu

- March 11th- LaRue County Cattleman's Meeting- 7pm
- March 15th- Extension Expo- LaRue County High School, 10a am - 2 pm
- March 12th- IPM Training School-Virtual
- March 20th- Drone Sprayer Training-Lyon County Extension
- March 27th- Italian Ryegrass Control Field Tour
- April 8th- LaRue County Cattleman's Meeting- 7pm



Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
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MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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FORAGE TIMELY TIPS FOR MARCH

- Continue pasture renovation by no-tilling seeding legumes.
- Place small seed at 1/4 to 1/2 inch deep and check depth several times during planting; slow down for more precise seeding.
- Continue feeding hay until adequate forage exists in the pasture for grazing.
- Spring seeding of grasses should be done in early to mid-March (but fall is preferred).
- Begin smoothing and re-seeding hay feeding and heavy traffic areas.
- Graze pastures overseeded with clover to reduce competition from existing grasses. Pull livestock off before grazing new clover plants.
- Provide free choice high-magnesium mineral to prevent grass tetany on lush spring growth.

PLACEMENTS BELOW EXPECTATIONS IN JANUARY CATTLE-ON-FEED REPORT

Dr. Kenny Burdine, University of Kentucky
Off the Hoof Newsletter - February 2025

The January Cattle on Feed report was released on Friday afternoon. Total on-feed inventory to start the year was estimated at a little over 11.8 million head, which is down by just under 1% from January of 2024. Despite the fact that feeder cattle supplies have been lower, feedlot inventories ran above year-ago levels for eight of twelve months in 2024 as lower feed prices encouraged longer feeding times. While I don't want to read too much into it, this was the largest year-over-year decline since May.

Placements were once again the headliner of the report as they came in below, and outside the range of pre-report estimates. December 2024 placements were estimated at 1.64 million, which was 3.3% below December 2023. On the surface, this seemed logical as December represented a full month of not receiving live cattle imports from Mexico. This also marked the second month in a row with placement levels being more than 3% below year-ago.

Friday's report was also a quarterly cattle-on-feed report, which means it included an estimate of the steer / heifer breakdown. In the absence of a July cattle inventory report, this has been one of the main indicators economists have been tracking for evidence of heifer retention. Heifers accounted for 38.7% of total on-feed inventory on January 1, 2025. While this doesn't speak to retention, it is worth noting that this is about 1% lower than last January and 1% lower than October 2024. So, it does bear watching as we move further into 2025. Again, I think imports from Mexico had some impact here as heifers had represented a higher than usual share of imports prior to the ban in late November.

Last week's cattle on feed report will be overshadowed later this week as USDA-NASS will release their annual inventory estimates on the afternoon of January 31st. While beef cow slaughter was down sharply for 2024, most are still expecting continued decreases in beef cattle numbers at the national level. It will be interesting to see the state-by-state numbers and specifically to look at areas where heifer retention may have already begun. Given the favorable price outlook for calves, I think heifer retention is very possible in 2025 if weather is cooperative. But I also think this will be a relatively slow cow-herd expansion once retention does begin.

Feeder cattle and calf prices were generally higher last week, as were fed cattle prices. Boxed prices were down slightly, but all prices were sharply above year ago levels. Live and feeder cattle futures were up sharply on the week.

FARMERS MARKET

Spring is approaching fast and now is the time to think about the Farmers Market. If you are interested in participating in the LaRue County Farmers Market there is a **mandatory informational meeting on March 25**th **at 6:00 pm EDT** at the Extension Office.



GREEN RIVER BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

The *Green River Beekeepers*Association serves the counties of Adair, Casey, Green, LaRue, Marion, and Taylor. Meetings are held at 7:00 pm EST on the 3rd Thursday of every month, except December. If you are interested in becoming a member or attending a meeting contact the office at (270) 358-3401 and we will share additional information.



EQUIPMENT RENTAL



That includes no-till drills, boomless pasture sprayer, lime spreader, and hay wrappers. *Contact the LaRue Conservation District at (270) 358-3132 for costs and availability.*



SERVICE & COMMERCIAL BOOTHS

ABE 93.7 вартіѕт неасти нагріп BE SMART FOR KIDS **BOUGIE Grannies creations** сагетепрегѕ номе неаlтн CASA OF THE HEARTLAND CATS Transportation CENTRAL KENTUCKY HEAD START DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, TERESA MCMAHAN-MILLER FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH GIDEONS INTERNATIONAL GILL SCOUTS OF KENTUCKIANA GOODWILL OPPORTUNITY CENTER grandview farm HODGENVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT HODGENVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT HODGENVILLE LIONS CLUB

KY Cancer Program, U of L KY STATE UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION KYNECT KYNECT resources LARUE COUNTY 4-H COUNTRY HAM PROJECT LARUE COUNTY 4-H DOE CLUB Larue County 4-H Livestock Club LARUE COUNTY 4-H Wranglers Club Larue county cooperative extension service Larue county chamber of commerce LARUE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT Larue county Farm Bureau Larue county farmers market Larue county fire department Larue county homemakers LARUE COUNTY PROJECT GRADUATION LARUE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Larue county sheriff's office Larue county young farmers association LINCOLN NATIONAL BANK LINCOLN TRAIL AREA ABENCY ON ABINB AND INDEPENDENT LIVING LINCOLN TRAIL DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT LIVIN' WELL LARUE Magnolia Bank Mather's Mill R&H Designs Sallee's family tackwondo sara jo ford - transamerica SILVELLEAF SEXUAL TRAUMA RECOVERY Tails & Tatas Breast cancer Awareness 5K THE LARUE COUNTY HERALD NEWS ик неагтисаге

______CULTIVATING CONNECTIONS GROWING A STRONGER COMMUNITY

SCREENINGS DEMONSTRATIONS GIVEAWAYS



LARUE COUNTY Jum



SOIL TESTING

Soil testing is a soil-management tool we use to determine the fertility of soil as well as the optimum lime and fertilizer requirements for crops. Fall is the best time of year to test your soil, but spring is also acceptable. Most nutrients take some time to break down and become available to the plant. If you give them all winter to break down, by the time you are ready to plant in the spring, the plants can better take up the nutrients.

When taking a soil sample, remember plants have shallow roots that lie within the top 6 to 12 inches of soil. Use a soil test probe to pull a core at a depth of about 6 to 8 inches and collect approximately two cups of soil per sample. Put the sample in a plastic bucket since a metal bucket may taint the results. When you bring the sample to the county extension office, we will put it into a soil test bag along with some information you provide and soon you will your test results. It will save you some money and it is good for the environment.

Remember the LaRue County Extension Service offers this service free of charge to the residents of LaRue County.



Routine testing is free for LaRue County residents.

FARM. GARDEN. LAWN.

LaRue County Extension Service 807 Old Elizabethtown Rd., Hodgenville 270-358-3401 OR ADAM.THOMAS@UKY.EDU

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. You will receive an invitation and password the morning of the presentation.

November

Shooting the Bull: Answering all your Beef Related Questions! Updates and Roundtable discussion with UK Specialists December Winter Feeding Strategies to Extend Short **Hay Supplies** Dr. Lawton Stewart, Professor, University of Georgia January Important Traits for Bull Selection in Dr. Matt Spangler, Professor, University of Nebraska **February** Marketing Opportunities for the Spring Dr. Kenny Burdine, Professor, and Kevin Laurent, Extension Specialist, University of Kentucky March Preparing for a Successful Spring Breeding Dr. Les Anderson, Extension Professor, University of Kentucky **Health Update and Internal Parasite Field**

Dr. Michelle Arnold, Extension Veterinarian, and Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler, Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

If you have any questions or need additional information please email

morning of each session with the link and password.

Study Results

dbullock@uky.edu. If you are already registered you will get a Zoom invitation the

Martin-Gatton

March 20, 2025

8:30 am - noon



Drone Sprayer Training

This program is designed for agricultural professionals and producers to learn about the latest information on drone spray application, efficiency, and safety in a classroom setting.

> Lyon County Extension Office 231 W. Main Street Eddyville, KY 42038

Topics include:

- **Results of Drone Sprayer Applications**
- Application Accuracy with Drones
- UK Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP) Overview & Updates
- Category 11 Aerial Applicator

https://2025dronesprayertraining.eventbrite.com

Cost: \$65

CCA and Pesticide Credits pending

If you have questions, please contact: Lori Rogers (lori.rogers@uky.edu 270-625-7541 ext 21317)

Cooperative Extension Service MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT





Virtual IPM Training School

March 12th, 2025

Zoom 8:00 AM- 4:00 PM CST

Program

https://uky.zoom.us/meeting/register/

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8:00-8:15 Welcome Dr. Ric Bessin

LF3Z1hZqbSZXY7GV9#/registration

Morning: Field Crops

8:15	Updating Nitrogen, Phosphate and Potash Rate Recommendations (AGR-1) for Kentucky Grain Growers - Dr. John Grove
8:40	Fertilization Methods for Organic Crop Production - Dr. Edwin Ritchey
9:05	Improving ROI for Corn Fungicide Applications - Dr. Kiersten Wise
9:30 9:55	Management of Foliar Diseases of Soybean - Dr. Carl Bradley Coffee Break
10:10	Slug Observations and Implications from Delaware - Dr. David Owens , Michael Crossley and Ben Sammarco, University of Delaware
10:35	Three Emergent Soybean Pests: Snails, Three-Cornered Alfalfa Hopper and Bean Leaf Beetles - Dr. Raul Villanueva
11:00	Potential Responses of Insect Pests to Climate Change - Dr. Nick Teets
11:25	Weed Control in 2025 and Beyond - Dr. Travis Legleiter

11:50 **Lunch Break**

Afternoon: Horticulture

	Automoon, Hordoutaro		
1:00	Difficult Weeds and Management Strategies - Dr. Shawn Wright		
1:25	Techniques for Managing Common Invasive Plants - Dr. Ellen Croker		
1:50	Soil Solarization: An Alternative Management Method for Many Issues - Dr. Rachel Rudolph		
2:15	Coffee Break		
2:30	Nursery IPM Practices to Up Your Disease and Pest Management Game- Ms. Tara Vaughn		
2:55	Spotting Trouble: Spotted Lanternfly and Kentucky - Dr. Jonathan Larson		
3:20	An Overview of Cold Damage And Prevention For Fruit Crops - Dr. Brent Arnoldussen		



Field Crops Pesticide Applicator- Category 2, 3, 10: 1; Category 1A: 3 **CEUs** Certified Crop Adviser- Nutrient Management: 1; IPM: 3 Horticulture Pesticide Applicator- Category 1A, 2, 3: 1 for each Certified Crop Adviser- IPM: 2; Crop Management: 1 **CEUs**

Contacts

Ric Bessin-r.bessin@uky.edu; (859) 257-7456 Zenaida Viloria- zenaida.viloria@uky.edu (270) 365-7541 Ext. 21336

Get ready for calving season this month!

Dr. Les Anderson, Beef Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

- Have calving equipment, supplies and labor ready for the spring calving season. Some supplies which may be needed are: eartags and applicator (put numbers on eartags now), tattoo pliers and ink, record book, scales for calf weights, iodine for calves' navels and colostrum supplement. Calving equipment (puller and chains, etc.) and facilities should be ready and clean.
- Overall condition of the cow herd should be evaluated. Cows losing weight now are more likely to have weak or dead calves. These cows will likely be a poor source of colostrum milk for the newborn calf. Feed cows, if necessary to keep them in good body condition. Cows need to calve in a BCS of 5, minimum, to expect them to rebreed in a timely fashion. Calve you heifers a little heavier, BCS of 6.
- Heifers may begin head-start calving in early February. Move them to a clean, accessible pasture, away from cow herd and near facilities so that calving assistance can be given. Cows may start calving later this month. Signs of calving are relaxation of pelvic ligaments, enlargement and swelling of the vulva, and enlargement of the udder. Expect calving difficulty if (1) calf's head and two feet are not visible, (2) only the calf's tail is visible, and (3) the cow has been in labor for 1½ hours. Be sure calf is being presented normally before using calf puller. Recognize situations that are beyond your capability and seek professional help as early as possible. Calves that aren't breathing should receive assistance. Try sticking a straw in nostril to stimulate a reflex or try alternate pressure and release on rib cage. Commercial respirators are also available. Calves should consume colostrum within 30 minutes of birth to achieve good immunity.
- Record birthdate, cow I.D., and birthweight immediately (use your Beef IRM calendar). Identify calf with eartag and/or tattoo. Registered calves should be weighed in the first 24 hours. Male calves in commercial herds should be castrated and implanted as soon as possible.
- Separate cows that calve away from dry cows and increase their feed. Increase feed after calving to 25-27 pounds of high-quality hay. Concentrate (3-4 lb. for mature cows and about 8 lb. for first-calf heifers) may be needed if you are feeding lower quality hay. Supplementation may have a beneficial effect on date and rate of conception. It's important time to feed a beef cow after calving. Thin cows don't come into heat very soon after calving. We must have cows in good condition, if we plan to breed them early in the season for best pregnancy rates, especially on high-endophyte fescue pastures.
- Sub-zero weather can mean death for newborn calves. During extremely cold spells, bring the cow(s) into a sheltered area as calving approaches to protect the calf. Be prepared to warm-up and feed newborn, chilled calves. Calving in mud can also cause problems.
- Watch for scours in newborn calves. Consult your veterinarian for diagnosis, cause, and treatment. Avoid muddy feeding areas so that cows' udders won't become contaminated and spread scours. Don't confine cows to muddy lots.
- Replacement heifers should be gaining adequately to reach target breeding weights by May 1. Be sure that their feeding program is adequate for early breeding.
- Start looking for herd sire replacements, if needed.

CRITICAL TIME TO BEGIN SAMPLING FOR ALFALFA WEEVIL

By Ric Bessin, Entomology Extension Specialist

The University of Kentucky Ag Weather Center's degree day model for alfalfa weevil indicates that many counties in Kentucky are likely to exceed the 190 Degree Days (DD) used as a starting point to begin scouting by early to mid-March. Once temperature accumulations reach 190 DD, growers are advised to look at their alfalfa fields and begin their alfalfa weevil larval counts. So far, degree day accumulations for this year are trending close to average for the last 10 years.

Fall-laid alfalfa weevil eggs are the first to hatch in the spring. These eggs hatch earlier than those laid in the spring, and 190 DD approximates when first leaf feeding damage becomes noticeable. Temperature extremes during the winter help to limit the survival of alfalfa weevil eggs that were laid in stems in the fall. Damage by the young larvae will first appear as tiny pin holes in the leaves.

Scouting & Thresholds

To scout for alfalfa weevil, use the stem sampling method. While walking in a "U" or "Z" pattern through a field, collect 30 alfalfa stems; carefully cup the top of each stem in one hand and break off the crown with your other hand, then place it bud-end downward in a plastic bucket. Be sure your samples are at least 20 feet from the edge of a field so that they are representative of the entire interior of a field.

If the field is close to harvest, harvest can be an alternative to spraying, but producers need to watch for damage to the regrowth. There are similar scouting tables for regrowth after the first cutting.

Alfalfa Weevil Larvae Thresholds for Spraying 190 to 225 Degree Days

Average stem height (inches)	Number of alfalfa weevil larvae on 30 stems
2	27
4	67
6	100
8	130

Alfalfa Weevil Larvae Thresholds for Spraying 226 to 275 Degree Days

Average stem height (inches)	Number of alfalfa weevil larvae on 30 stems
2	15
4	19
6	20

For degree day accumulations above 275, use the economic threshold tables in <u>ENTFACT 127</u> or <u>ENT-17</u> to determine the need to spray the field for alfalfa weevil.

Avoid Pesticide Resistance

If you need to treat for alfalfa weevil larvae, keep in mind that insecticide resistance has been an issue in some areas. The best strategy to manage resistance is to use an insecticide only when necessary and to rotate modes of action each year. For many other pests I would recommend rotating more often, but alfalfa weevil has only one generation per year. To rotate modes of action, select insecticides that have a different IRAC group number on the label.

ARC VS PLC DECISION FOR 2025

Agriculture Risk Coverage -vs- Price Loss Coverage -

Slumping row crop prices have induced greater attention among grain farmers regarding farm bill safety net programs. Congress will be considering a new farm bill once again in 2025, following extensions in 2023 and 2024 of the 2018 farm bill. Eligibility and funding levels for nutrition programs relative to farm program support will steer much of the debate. Within, the farm programs, discussion will evolve around the level of reference (support) prices, base acres, and other payment parameters which ultimately will determine safety net program provisions for crops beyond the 2025 crop year. The farm bill extension passed last December continues the basic structure of the safety net programs established in the 2014 and 2018 farm bills for eligible crops for the upcoming crop year.

The current farm bill provides two programs to provide income support for specified row crops — the Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) and the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs. The ARC program provides payments when actual crop revenues fall below a specified guaranteed level, while the PLC program provides payments when the national average market price (or the national average loan rate if higher) for a given covered commodity falls below a specified effective reference price for that commodity. Producers will be required to make an election of ARC vs PLC for 2025 farm bill crops (primarily corn, soybeans, and wheat in Kentucky) at their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office or they can apply online by the April 15, 2025 deadline. If producers do not submit their election by April 15th, their 2024 election remains in effect. For specific enrollment details on these programs for 2025, click here.

This purpose of this article is to provide some insights and tools that producers can utilize in making their ARC versus PLC decision for their 2025 crops. Several Universities including Kansas State, the University of Illinois, and Texas A&M offer decision tools to aid in the ARC/PLC discussion and are linked at the end of this article. Each tool commodity prices made PLC unlikely to trigger, and thus, ARC-CO provided the most protection. The current decision for the 2025/2026 marketing year still points to ARC-CO being the best for beans; however, the lower price environment creates trade-offs for corn and wheat.

The purpose of this article is to provide some insights and tools that producers can utilize in making their ARC versus PLC decisions for their 2025 crops. Several universities including Kansas State, the University of Illinois, and Texas A&M offer decision tools to aid in the ARC/PLC discussion and are linked at the end of this article. Each tool offers a different user-interface and its own advantages and disadvantages; however, each one can aid in the decision making process.

In recent history, Kentucky producers have likely chosen Agricultural Risk Coverage at the County level (ARC-CO) for corn and soybeans. The added protection for low yields in combination with higher commodity process made PLC unlikely to trigger, and thus, ARC-CO provided the most protection. The current decision for the 2025/2026 marketing year still points to ARC-Co being the best for beans; however, the lower price environment creates trade-offs for corn and wheat.

In general, ARC still offers the most protection to deep losses due to its protection over falling yields as well as price; however, PLC may cover more shallow losses due to price loss alone. To put this simply, PLC could result in higher payments should county yields be average or above and prices drop where ARC will offer higher payments if county yields fall below average. The April 15th decision date throws another wrench as we have more time (compared to our usual March 15th deadline) to collect information and estimate the season average price. We will know more about potential season average prices, particularly for corn after the release of the Prospective Planting report on March 31st as well as the potential impacts of tariffs. In general, current results point to ARC-CO enrollment which offers more protection over yield losses; however, if prices drop drastically between now and April 15th it may be beneficial to change to PLC enrollment option near the deadline.

Gardner, G. and W. Snell. "ARC vs PLC Decision for 2025." Economic Policy Update (25):2 Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Kentucky, February 27, 2025.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

