

JUNE 2024 ISSUE

# AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWSLETTER

**Cooperative Extension Service**  
Fleming County  
P.O. Box 192; 1384 Elizaville Rd  
Flemingsburg, KY 41041  
Office Phone: (606) 845-4641  
extension.ca.uky.edu  
april.wilhoit@uky.edu

A Monthly Newsletter by Fleming County Extension Office



## IN THIS ISSUE:

- Cattle Timely Tips: 2
- Healthy Recipe: 3
- Forage Timely Tips: 4
- UK Beef Forage Tool: 5
- Ugly Corn: 6
- Joro Spiders: 7
- Cedar-Apple Rust: 8-9
- Farm Bill Update: 9-11
- June Horticulture Web Wed: 11
- Grassland Cons. Program: 12-13
- UK Weather Alert App: 14
- Farmers Market: 15
- Cow-Calf Shares: 16
- Plants that Plague Horses: 17
- Conservation Backyard Grant: 18
- Pollinators BioBlitz: 19
- Important Dates: 20

## A Note From Your Agent:

Happy June All,

As I am writing this note to you, the weather is fantastic. A nice cool morning with lots of sun. May 2024 went in the books as being one of the top 10 wettest on record. As a state we ended the month almost 3 inches above average for rainfall. I know many folks were delayed getting their first cuttings of hay in due to the timing and amounts of rain we received. We had to delay our Hay Quality Production Field Day twice. A new date is still to be determined.

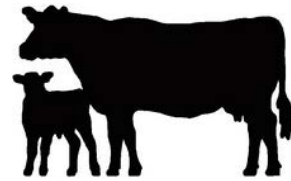
We are working on planning our Fall educational classes and should have information rolling out soon on those. In the meanwhile if you have questions, or suggestions for programming, please let us know!

April Wilhoit- Fleming ANR Agent



# Timely Tips

Les Anderson, Extension Professor, University of Kentucky



## Spring-Calving Cow Herd

- Cows should be on good pasture with clover and preferably low endophyte levels in fescue for the spring breeding season. Keep pastures vegetative by clipping or making hay. They should have abundant shade and water. Our goal is to have cows become pregnant before July when temperatures and heat stress can ruin the “spring” breeding season.
- Observe the cows and bulls as the breeding season continues. Watch bulls for injury or lameness and change bulls if a high percentage of cows are returning to heat. Record cow breeding dates to determine next year’s calving dates and keep records of cows and bulls in each breeding group.
- Keep a good pasture mineral mix, which contains adequate levels of phosphorus, vitamin A, selenium, and copper, available.
- Consider a devoted area for creep grazing calves, or practice “forward grazing” this summer, allowing calves to graze fresh pasture ahead of the cows. This can be accomplished by raising an electric wire or building a creep gate.

## Fall-Calving Cows

- Pregnancy test cows if not done previously.
- Cull cows at weaning time
  - Smooth-mouthed cows
  - Cows weaning light weight and/or poor-quality calves
  - Open cows
  - “Problem cows” with bad feet, teats, udders, etc.
- Select replacement heifers based on:
  - temperament
  - conformation
  - weaning weight
  - dam and sire records
  - Select more than needed to allow for culling after a short breeding season

## General

- Finish harvesting excess pasture as hay soon! It should be cut before it becomes too mature. Be sure and replenish your reserves. Try to put up more than you think you will need in case of a late summer drought.
- Pasture should supply adequate energy, protein, and vitamins now. However, be prepared for drought situations. Don’t overgraze pastures so that recovery time will be faster. Overgrazed pastures will recover very slowly during July/August.
- Keep pastures small for rotational grazing so that nutritive quality can be maintained. They should be small enough, so cattle do not graze longer than a week. As the season progresses, you need several paddocks to give each properly stocked pasture about 4 weeks’ rest.
- Maintain a clean water supply and check it routinely. Water is extremely important in hot weather.
- Control flies. Consider changing insecticides and/or methods of control this year, because insecticide resistant flies may have developed if you have used the same chemical year after year. Consider pour-on and sprays that allow you to put cattle in the corral or through the chute with little stress on them. It will make subsequent trips through the “chute” less stressful.
- Prevent/Control pinkeye
  - consider vaccinating,
  - control flies,
  - clip tall, mature grass,
  - treat problems quickly.
- Clip grazed-over pastures for weed control and so that seed heads do not irritate eyes. Pastures should be kept in a vegetative state for the best quality.

## CAIP EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES- FLEMING COUNTY

### ONLINE AT ANYTIME:

- Visit: <https://anr.ca.uky.edu/caip-training> for instructions
- Visit: <https://campus.extension.org/enrol/index.php?id=1970> to access the online training site

### ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:

- Contact: (606) 845-4641 or [april.wilhoit@uky.edu](mailto:april.wilhoit@uky.edu)





# Spring Harvest Salad

**Servings:** 8    **Serving Size:** 1 cup

## Directions:

1. Combine leaf lettuce and spinach leaves with sliced strawberries, blueberries and green onion in a large salad bowl.
2. \*\*\*Prepare dressing by whisking together the lemon juice, olive oil, balsamic vinegar, Dijon mustard, honey and salt; pour over lettuce mixture and toss to coat.
3. Sprinkle salad with feta cheese and sliced almonds.
4. Serve immediately.

**Nutrition Info:** 130 calories; 9g fat; 1.5g sat fat; 240mg sodium; 12g carbohydrates; 3g fiber; 7g sugar; 3g protein.

## Additional Info:

- [www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov](http://www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov).
- ID- 128- Home Vegetable Gardening in Kentucky, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Kentucky, College of Agriculture, 2011.
- For more delicious recipes and information on lettuce or other "Kentucky Proud" fruits and vegetables, contact your local Cooperative Extension Service or visit: [www.kentuckyproud.com](http://www.kentuckyproud.com).



## INGREDIENTS

- 5 cups torn spring leaf lettuce
- 2 1/2 cups spinach leaves
- 1 1/2 cups sliced strawberries
- 1 cup fresh blueberries
- 1/2 cup thinly sliced green onions
- \*4 teaspoons lemon juice
- \*2 1/2 tablespoons olive oil
- \*1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
- \*1 1/2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
- \*2 teaspoons Kentucky honey
- \*1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 cup feta cheese crumbles
- 1/2 cup unsalted sliced almonds

**Source:** Plate it up! Kentucky Proud Project.



## Publication of the Month

An IPM Scouting Guide for Common Pests of Solanaceous Crops in Kentucky

<https://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/id/id172/id172.pdf>





# Forage Timely Tips: June

- Make plans to attend the KFGC's Forage Tours.
- Continue hay harvests. Minimize storage losses by storing hay under cover.
- Clip pastures for weeds and seedheads as needed.
- Slow rotation allowing for a longer recovery period.
- Use portable fencing to decrease paddock size and increase paddock number.
- Do NOT grazing below the minimum desired residual height.
- When present, johnsongrass can provide high quality summer forage when managed.
- Crabgrass, a warm-season annual grass, can provide high quality summer grazing. is a annual grass highly preferred by livestock. If desired, remember crabgrass needs some annual soil disturbance to keep coming back.
- Begin grazing native warm-season grasses. Start at 18-20" and stop at 8-10 inches.
- Begin grazing introduced warm-season grasses.

UK FORESTRY AND NATURAL RESOURCES - EXTENSION

## Kentucky WOODLAND OWNERS SHORT COURSE

JUNE - AUGUST 2024

Kentucky Woodland Owners Short Course

Zoom Online Sessions:

- June 11 - Woodland Management Process/Tree ID
- June 13 - Woodland Health
- June 18 - Wildlife and Woodlands
- June 20 - Carbon, Climate Change & Woodlands
- June 25 - Woodlands, Water Quality & NRCS Financial Technical Assistance

View all

One Field Session:

- July 13 - Robinson Forest
- August 10 - Roundstone Native Seed

Pick 1

\$10/online sessions only OR \$25/online sessions plus 1 field session - \$35/couple

[HTTPS://WOSC.CA.UKY.EDU/REGISTRATION](https://wosc.ca.uky.edu/registration)

Fleming County FARMERS MARKET

fresh product from our Local farmers

2024 SUMMER OPENING

SATURDAY

# JUNE 15

8 a m - 1 p m

Fleming County Extension Parking Lot  
1384 Elizaville Rd

SAMPLES  
GIVEAWAYS!

Kentucky Proud

UK Cooperative Extension Service

Cooperative Extension Service  
Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Health and Consumer Sciences  
& 18 South Development  
Community and Economic Development  
Lexington, KY 40506

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT  
The University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service provides educational programs and materials to all individuals in the field of agriculture, food, and the environment, regardless of race, color, sex, age, or disability. For more information, contact your local Extension office or the National Center for Education of Deaf and Hard of Hearing, 1400 G Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002. (202) 546-7000. TDD: (202) 546-7000. Email: nced@aphis.usda.gov



# Using the UK Beef Cow Forage Supplementation Tool

The following is an example of how to use the UK Beef Cow Forage Supplement tool. We will use the “average” crude protein (CP), neutral detergent fiber (NDF), and total digestible nutrients (TDN) for the 268 hay samples from the East KY hay contest that required supplementation and assume an “as fed” dry matter of 88%. The averages for this sample set were 11.8, 56, and 57% for CP, NDF, and TDN, respectively. When we compare these average values to the nutrient requirements of a lactating brood cow (Table 2), it becomes apparent that this hay will require energy supplementation.

The question then becomes what type of supplement and how much? This can be determined by using the UK Beef Cow Forage Supplement Tool. This application can be used on-line or downloaded to your smart phone. It allows you to enter the results from your forage test (dry matter, neutral detergent fiber, crude protein, and total digestible nutrients) and gives you a range of supplement options and how much of each supplement must be fed to meet the cow’s nutritional requirements at a given stage of production (Table 3). The UK Beef Cow Forage Supplement Tool can be found on-line at <http://forage-supplement-tool.ca.uky.edu/>.

When we enter the average values for crude protein, neutral detergent fiber, and total digestible nutrients for the sample set requiring supplementation, the application indicates that this hay would need to be supplemented with either 2.1 lb corn, 2.1 lb of soybean hulls, 2.1 lb of Corn Gluten Feed, or 2.0 lb of Distillers Dried Grain with solubles on a daily basis (Table 4). When selecting a supplemental feed, it is important to consider local availability, how and where it will be stored, how it will be fed, how much can be safely fed, and of course how much it costs. Special thanks to Dr. Jimmy Henning, Dr. Chris Teutsch and local county agents for organizing the East and the Central KY Hay Contests.

## UK Beef Cow Forage Supplement Tool



### Forage Analysis - Dry Matter Basis

Dry Matter  %

Crude Protein  %

NDF  %

TDN  %

### Stage of Production

Mid-Gestation

### Supplements

- Corn
- Soyhull
- 75% Soyhull / 25% Gluten
- 85% Soyhull / 15% DDGS
- 67% Soyhull / 33% Gluten
- 80% Soyhull / 20% DDGS
- 75% Soyhull / 25% DDGS
- 50% Soyhull / 50% Gluten
- Corn Gluten Feed (Gluten)
- Distillers Dried Grains w/solubles (DDGS)
- Soybean Meal

Select All Clear Selection

Calculate



# Ugly Corn About to Turn the Corner

*By: Chad Lee, University of Kentucky.*

The 2024 corn season has created some ugly cornfields around the state. Those fields are about to turn the corner if they have not already. Excessive water, cool temperatures, windy conditions, active slugs and bugs, sidewall compaction, weeds and more created many challenges for the corn planted, especially corn planted earlier.

Most of the corn is somewhere between emergence and about waist high which can be anywhere from the V8 growth stage (which has eight fully emerged leaves) to about V12. At this time of this writing, about 20% of the corn acres are still in the bag. Perhaps another 10% or more needs planted again.

Corn fields seem to be either excellent or very poor. For the very poor fields, either the plants are rather small (probably V4 or less) or the corn plants are all over the place. Some fields have corn that is nearly waist high, corn that is stunted and yellow and low areas where corn was completely killed from flooding.

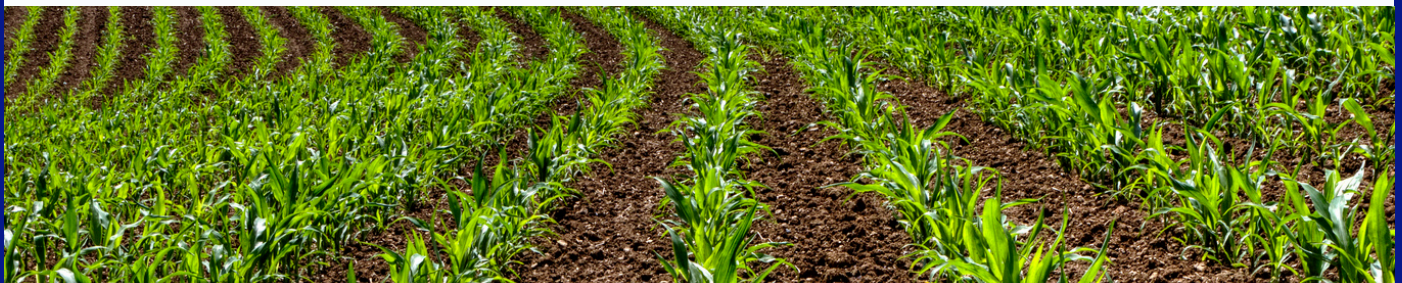
Saturated soils can cause corn plants to look yellow. Most of that yellowing is from root death and the inability of the plant to take up nitrogen. Those plants need oxygen back into the rooting zone to allow for new growth of roots. Once new roots are developed, the plants will start taking up nutrients again. Plants in these fields may take one to two weeks before they start to look better.

Saturated soils can cause nitrogen losses, mostly from denitrification, when anaerobic microbes convert the nitrogen into gaseous forms lost to the atmosphere. That nitrogen loss usually is not as high as you would think. Three days of saturation are needed before microbes will be active enough to denitrify.

Even in fields that have not been saturated, several nutrient deficiency symptoms are evident this year. Sulfur deficiency is more prevalent this year. Historically, visual sulfur deficiency does not translate to yield differences. However, some recent studies in Kentucky have showed yield increases to fertilizer sulfur. No more than 30 pounds of sulfur per acre should be used and foliar applications of sulfur are not effective.

The earlier-planted corn had more problems with slugs, insects, and seedling diseases. Raul Villanueva wrote an article on slug management for the last Corn and Soybean Newsletter: [https://graincrops.ca.uky.edu/sites/graincrops.ca.uky.edu/files/cornsoynewsletter2024vol06issue05\\_May\\_final\\_0.pdf](https://graincrops.ca.uky.edu/sites/graincrops.ca.uky.edu/files/cornsoynewsletter2024vol06issue05_May_final_0.pdf) Kiersten Wise wrote an article about seedling diseases in the same newsletter. The weather forecast suggests that corn will grow out of this ugly phase in most fields. Once corn gets to about the V6 or V7 growth stages, the plants will actively take up nutrients and start to look healthier. The stress of the weather on the corn before the V5 growth stage likely will have little impact on yield if the plant population has been maintained.

For those 20% of acres that needs planting, farmers should stay with their selected hybrids and populations for most fields if the corn is planted before June 15. At this point, there is only one chance to get it right and farmers will not be able to replant. As much as possible avoid planting into wet conditions that create sidewall compaction. If done correctly, there is still an opportunity for respectable yields. The corn planted in June will grow very quickly. For example, from June 7, 2024, the weather forecasts that corn will emerge in 5 days in Daviess, Hardin and Boyle counties. The longer term forecast historically suggests that corn will speed through the growth stages thereafter. If there has been 3 or 4 weeks between burndown application and planting, expect to need to apply more herbicide. Consider soil residual herbicides, accounting for what was applied earlier and accounting for crop rotation restrictions.

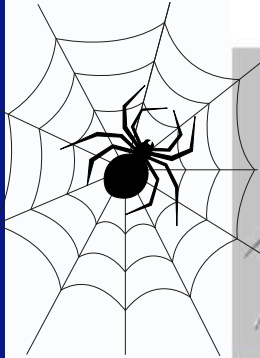






# Things to know about Jorō spiders

These large, introduced spiders are in the news and giving people the chills. But how much do you really need to fear these gentle giants?



1

## Big, beautiful spider

Female Jorō spiders have a leg-span of about 4 inches, males are less than half that size.



## There are lookalikes in KY

Garden spiders are similar in size and color. Jorō spiders don't usually make the web zig-zag though.

2



Black and yellow garden spider

Banded garden spider

Jorō spider

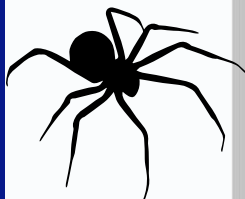
3

## Jorō spiders do not truly "fly" through the sky

When Jorō spiderlings hatch from their eggs they may "balloon" to new locations. This involves using a silk strand to catch the wind and travel through the air.



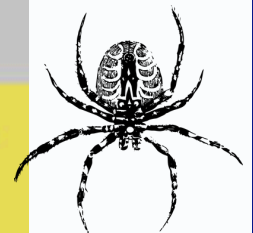
Whoooo!



4

## Jorō spiders have not been found in Kentucky

They have been detected in nearby in Tennessee and West Virginia though. They are more common in Georgia and The Carolinas.

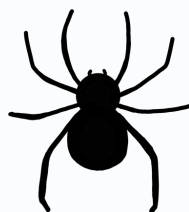


5

## Like all spiders, Jorō spiders have venom

Despite their size, their venom does not pose a significant medical hazard to people.

If you think you found one, email 2-4 photos and your county location to: [reportapest@uky.edu](mailto:reportapest@uky.edu)



# Cedar-Apple Rust

By: *Kim Leonberger, Plant Pathology Extension Associate, and Nicole Gauthier, Plant Pathology Extension Specialist*

Cedar-apple rust is the most common and economically important rust disease of apple in Kentucky. The pathogen overwinters as galls on cedar and juniper. Removal of these pathogen sources on cedar can later reduce disease incidence on apple. Once apple trees become infected, limited management options are available.

## Cedar-Apple Rust Facts

- Leaf symptoms begin as small, pale yellow spots on upper leaf surfaces (Figure 1). Spots enlarge to become bright yellow-orange, often with reddish borders (Figure 2). In late spring or early summer, small orange-yellow tubular fruiting bodies project from lower sides of leaf spots (Figure 3). Severely infected leaves may drop prematurely. Infected fruit exhibit similar symptoms with spots appearing near the blossom end; however, spots on fruit are much larger than those on leaves. Fruit may also become deformed and drop prematurely.
- Cedar-apple rust is known to infect apple, crabapple, hawthorn, mountain ash, pear, and serviceberry.
- The pathogen requires more than one host to complete its life cycle. Cedar and juniper serve as alternate hosts. In mid-late summer, spores from apple spots are blown to cedar and juniper. Infection results in the formation of galls (swellings), which expand over a period of 2 years before producing spores that infect apples.
- Primary infection of apples begins in early spring during leaf expansion and pink bud stage. Infections can continue until 30 days after bloom.
- Damp conditions with temperatures between 50°F and 60°F favors disease development.
- Caused by the fungus *Gymnosporangium juniper-virginianae*.



Figure 1: Leaf symptoms begin as small yellow spots on upper leaf surfaces. (Photo: Kim Leonberger, UK)



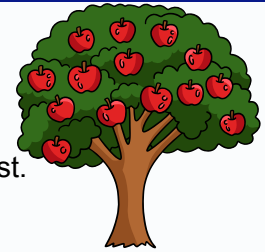
Figure 2: Leaf spots expand and become bright yellow-orange spots, often with reddish borders. (Photo: Kim Leonberger, UK)



Figure 3: On undersides of leaf spots, small orange-yellow tubular fruiting bodies develop. (Photo: Nicole Gauthier, UK)

**Continued on next page**





## Management Options

- Select apple and juniper cultivars that are resistant or immune to cedar-apple rust.
- Maintain plant health with proper nutrition and irrigation practices.
- Destroy nearby unmanaged, abandoned, or wild hosts.
- Prune and destroy galls found on juniper and cedar.
- Commercial growers should consult the Commercial Fruit Pest Management Guide – ID-232 for fungicide recommendations. For more information about fungicides, homeowners should review the publication Backyard Apple & Pear Disease, Pest, and Cultural Practices Calendar.

## Additional Information

- Apple Rust Diseases ([PPFS-FR-T-05](#))
- Disease Susceptibility & Resistance of Common Apple Cultivars ([PPFS-FR-T-28](#))
- Backyard Apple & Pear Disease, Pest, and Cultural Practices Calendar ([PPFS-FR-T-21](#))
- Commercial Midwest Fruit Pest Management Guide ([ID-232](#))
- Cultural Calendar for Commercial Apple Production ([PPFS-FR-T-25](#))
- Disease and Insect Control Programs for Homegrown Fruit in Kentucky including Organic Alternatives ([ID-21](#))
- Fruit, Orchard, and Vineyard Sanitation ([PPFS-GEN-05](#))
- Simplified Backyard Apple & Pear Spray Guides ([PPFS-FR-T-18](#))

# Farm Bill Update – May 2024

*Snell, W. "Farm Bill Update – May 2024." Economic and Policy Update (24):5, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Kentucky, May 24, 2024.*

Following the expiration and eventual extension of the 2018 farm bill last fall, interested parties have been attempting to get a farm bill moving in this session of the U.S. Congress prior to the existing farm bill expiring on September 30, 2024. Agricultural interests are hoping to strengthen the current farm bill given a challenged ag economy consisting of slumping commodity prices, elevated input costs, tightening credit conditions, and falling exports.

While lots of discussion occurred prior to this month among lawmakers, lobbyists, and other interested parties, congressional action has been limited so far in 2024 until a flourish of activity within the ag committees this past month in hopes that will jump-start passage of a new farm bill in 2024 amidst a crowded legislative agenda, limited floor time remaining in this session, and during a presidential election year.

On May 1st, House Ag Committee Chairman Glenn "GT" Thompson (R-PA) and Senate Ag Committee Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) both released a framework of their individual farm bill proposals.[i] Both leaders proposed maintaining the existing structure of the current farm bill where crop insurance along with the Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program and the Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) program remain the primary safety net programs for agriculture. PLC makes payments when market year average prices for program crops fall below statutory "effective" reference prices. ARC makes payments when revenue falls below county benchmark levels. Both programs make payments on 85% of historical base acres to prevent farm programs from influencing current production decisions. For more details on the mechanics of these programs click here.

Chairman Thompson provided specific details of his farm bill this past week with plans for the bill to be debated within the House Ag Committee on May 23rd. A few selected items of interest for agricultural producers within this nearly 1000-page bill are the following:

- Increases in the statutory reference (safety net) prices across the board for program crops (primarily corn, soybeans, and wheat for Kentucky) to reflect changing market conditions and production costs. The reference price for corn would increase from \$3.70 to \$4.10 a bushel (+10.8%), soybeans would go from \$8.40 to \$10.00 a bushel (+19.0%) and wheat would rise from \$5.50 to \$6.35 a bushel (+15.5%). Marketing loan rates for program crops would also increase modestly.

- Increases the ARC crop revenue guarantee to 90% of the benchmark revenue compared to its current level of 86%. Increases the maximum payment rate for ARC to 12.5% of benchmark revenue versus 10% under the existing farm bill.
- Provides a one-time opportunity for producers to receive new base acres on program crops that are currently not eligible for ARC/PLC payments. These new payment acres would be based on production history during the 2019 to 2023 crop years.
- Crop insurance premium subsidies for the Supplemental Coverage Option would increase from 65% to 80% and the top coverage level would be boosted from 86% to 90%.
- Reallocates conservation funding within the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) which is designed to support climate change practices in agriculture directly to the conservation title of the farm bill, without mandating how these funds can be used to support agriculture.
- Maintains the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) cap at 27 million acres.
- Increases the cap on Tier I coverage for the Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program to 6 million pounds, compared to the existing cap of 5 million pounds. In addition, the House farm bill proposal provides an opportunity to update production history for DMC and calls for a 25% discount on DMC premiums for dairy operations that enroll in coverage for the life of the 2024 Farm Bill. The proposed House bill also addresses the formula calculation of the price of Class I (fluid) milk.
- Increases the payment rate of the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) to 100% of the fair market value of the animal if the loss is caused by an attack by a federally protected species.
- Forbids states or local governments to impose regulations on livestock production as a condition for the sale or consumption of livestock products outside its borders.
- Increases limits for USDA's Farm Service Agency loans and provides additional opportunities and programs for beginning farmers.
- Increases funding for trade promotion and specialty crop programs.
- Addresses some of the regulations on industrial hemp production related to testing and background checks.

Additional details for these and other programs of Chairman Thompson's [proposed House farm bill](#) can be found by clicking [here](#).

While specific details of the Senate farm bill proposed by Chairwoman Stabenow have not been released, there are some similarities in the two bills, but a lot of differences. According to the committee's [proposed Senate farm bill summary](#), the Senate bill provides an increase in the statutory reference prices for three (non-Kentucky) crops – cotton, rice and peanuts. Other program crops may experience an adjustment in response to the Senate bill modifying the formula used to determine the “effective” reference price to reflect recent higher commodity prices. The ARC crop revenue guarantee would be increased from 86 to 88% (versus 90% in the proposed House bill), while the cap on the maximum payment rate like the House bill will be boosted from 10 to 12.5% of the ARC benchmark revenue. The Senate summary indicates base acre adjustments will be offered only to “underserved” producers. Similar to the House bill, the Senate bill increases the quantity of milk eligible for Tier I coverage to 6 million pounds and allows producers to update their production history. FSA maximum borrowing levels are also boosted. Unlike the House bill, the Senate farm bill proposal does reduce the adjusted gross income cap on farm program payments from its current level of \$900,000 to a proposed \$700,000 level. Trade promotion program funding within the proposed Senate farm bill remains at current levels, with noted opportunities outside the farm bill to increase support. The Senate farm bill proposal gradually expands the CRP cap to 29 million acres (vs remaining at 26 million acres in the House bill). Like the House bill, the Senate proposal transfers the conservation dollars from the IRA into the 2024 farm bill, but the Senate proposal does not provide opportunities to shift climate-smart agricultural program funding from the IRA into other farm bill programs. California's Prop 12 which prohibits the sale of livestock products from animals raised under certain conditions is not addressed by the proposed Senate farm bill.

The political reality is that neither one of these bills will be enacted in its current form, with lots of amendments offered and compromises required on both sides necessary to even have a shot at passage given thin party margins in both chambers and the political divide within parties. In addition to philosophical political differences, the challenge for both sides will be finding additional dollars to support the proposed expansion of various agricultural and nutrition programs within the farm bill.



**Continued from previous page**

Without additional new funding sources, lawmakers seeking to increase funding of certain components of the farm bill will require taking dollars from other parts of the farm bill. Pulling dollars from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP – currently over 80% of the current farm bill budget), is off-limits for a large block of lawmakers who likely will be critical to its passage. Others are looking at acquiring funds from the climate change/carbon-smart agriculture conservation programs funded in the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 to provide for a stronger farm safety net in this farm bill and to boost available baseline spending in future farm bills. Again, opposition exists to redirect these funds and the potential use of these funds. Others are looking at tapping into funds held within the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), USDA's line of credit at the Treasury, for additional dollars to help fund expanded farm bill initiatives which is meeting resistance from some lawmakers who question the use of these dollars beyond traditional uses to designed to stabilize, support, and protect farm income and prices. Alternatively, Chairman Thompson is proposing suspending USDA's funding authority within the CCC to clear up funds for farm bill expansion which remains questionable if the committee has authority to account for these savings, the amount of potential savings, and whether this action is the correct strategy amidst other potential future uses of these funds.

Consequently, the debate within the House Ag Committee on May 23rd, will be intense with much uncertainty if it will allow an eventual path to debate on the contentious House floor. Actions and deliberations within the House Ag Committee will likely influence the farm bill debate and strategy that will evolve later from the Senate Ag Committee. Additional updates in our newsletter will be forthcoming as Congress attempts to pass a farm bill in 2024. In reality, the effective deadline from a commodity perspective is December 31, 2024, which if not passed prior to the fall elections would enable the farm bill to potentially receive floor debate during the lame duck session following the November elections. Given the political challenges, another farm bill extension is likely the best bet at the present time. Stay tuned!

[i] The House Farm Bill proposal offered on May 1st by House Agriculture Committee Chairman, Glen "GT" Thompson (R-PA) can be found by clicking [here](#). The Senate Farm Bill proposal offered by Chairwomen Stabenow (D-MI) on May 1st can be found by clicking [here](#).

**Horticulture Webinar Wednesdays**  
12:30pm ET/11:30 am CT  
Visit [kentuckyhortnews.com](http://kentuckyhortnews.com)  
Martin-Gatton University of Kentucky

# JUNE CLASSES

Wednesdays  
12:30 p.m. ET/ 11:30 a.m. CT

**June 5 - What's App?  
UK Ag Weather**

**June 12 - Focus on Foliage**

**June 19 - Growing Pecans  
and Hickory**

**June 26 - Mason Bees**

You must register before the class.

<http://tinyurl.com/24JuneHWW>

Click on the classes you want to attend.

You will get an email with the class link.

Register at:  
<http://tinyurl.com/24JunHWW>

# Grassland Conservation Reserve Program

SIGN UP FOR GRASSLAND CRP  
June 3 - June 28



## Producers and Landowners Can Now Sign Up for USDA's Grassland Conservation Reserve Program

Lexington, Kentucky, June 3, 2024 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that agricultural producers and private landowners can now sign up for the Grassland Conservation Reserve Program (Grassland CRP). The signup runs from today through June 28, 2024. Grassland CRP, offered by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), is a voluntary working lands conservation program that enables participants to conserve grasslands and provide important conservation benefits for wildlife, soil health and carbon sequestration, all while continuing most grazing and haying practices.

"Grassland CRP is a vital conservation tool that supports two of USDA's top priorities: the wellbeing of American agriculture and the health of America's grasslands, which provide critical environmental benefits for wildlife and carbon sequestration," said Dean Schamore, FSA State Executive Director in Kentucky. "Over the past three years, we have seen historic interest in the Grassland Conservation Reserve Program with producers signing up to conserve over 6.8 million acres. This historic interest from agriculture has proven that agricultural productivity and conservation priorities are not exclusive from one another, but can coexist and, more importantly, complement and enhance one another." More than 2.3 million acres from agricultural producers and private landowners were accepted through the 2023 Grassland CRP signup. That signup reflects the continued success and value of investments in voluntary, producer-led, working lands conservation programs. The current total participation in Grassland CRP is 8.64 million acres, which is part of the 24.8 million acres enrolled in CRP opportunities overall.

On Nov. 16, 2023, President Biden signed into law H.R. 6363, the Further Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024 (Pub. L. 118-22), which generally extended the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115-334), more commonly known as the 2018 Farm Bill, through



**Continued from previous page**

Sept. 30, 2024. This extension allows authorized programs, including CRP, to continue operating.

Landowners and producers interested in CRP should contact their local [USDA Service Center](#) to learn more or to apply for the program before the June 28 deadline.

#### Other CRP Options

FSA is also accepting applications for the [Continuous CRP](#) signup, which opened in January 2023. Under this enrollment, producers and landowners can enroll in CRP throughout the year. Offers are automatically accepted provided the producer and land meet the eligibility requirements and the enrollment levels do not exceed the statutory cap.

Additionally, FSA also offers financial assistance to producers and landowners enrolled in CRP to improve the health of their forests through the [Forest Management Incentive \(FMI\)](#), which can help participants with forest management practices, such as brush management and prescribed burning.

Producers with expiring CRP acres can use the [Transition Incentives Program \(TIP\)](#), which incentivizes producers who sell or enter a long-term lease with a beginning, veteran, or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher who plans to sustainably farm or ranch the land.

#### More Information

Signed into law in 1985, CRP is one of the largest voluntary private-lands conservation programs in the United States. It was originally intended to primarily control soil erosion and potentially stabilize commodity prices by taking marginal lands out of production. The program has evolved over the years, providing many conservation and economic benefits.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. Under the Biden-Harris administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit [usda.gov](https://usda.gov).

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

# Bull Value Assessment Program



**SAVE  
THE DATE**

**October 8th & October 15**

**More details to come!**

# UK launches new "Weather Alert" smartphone app

In a move to boost weather-related awareness and agricultural decision-making, the University of Kentucky Ag Weather Center, in partnership with the UK Department of Biosystems and Ag Engineering, UK Center for Computational Sciences and the Southeastern Center for Agricultural Health and Injury Prevention (SCAHIP), has announced the launch of "Weather Alert." The smartphone application aims to serve both Kentucky's farming community and other residents by providing critical weather updates and forecasts.

"We know how tough it can be to keep up with the weather," said Matt Dixon, UK senior meteorologist with the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. "That's why we made Weather Alert as simple and straightforward as possible. It doesn't have any frills, just the info you need."

The app's first phase, now complete, offers a user-friendly design with access to current and forecasted weather data, high-resolution radar and timely warning and watch alerts. Users can receive alerts tailored to their specific GPS location or other designated areas, enhancing their ability to make informed management and production decisions.

"As we move into the next phases, the app will incorporate advanced tools from the Ag Weather Center to provide a GPS-enabled, county-by-county agricultural weather product tailored to the needs of the Bluegrass State and beyond," Dixon said. "The focus will then shift towards enhancing disaster readiness capabilities in its subsequent phase, maintaining a county-centric approach."

Weather Alert is available at no cost and free from advertisements, ensuring a seamless and efficient user experience.

"The Weather Alert app has provided real-time weather information for our extension agents, producers, families and communities to make decisions and be proactive with weather-related events," said Laura Stephenson, associate dean and director of the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service. "We encourage everyone, especially those in agricultural sectors, to download this free app to stay prepared and informed about weather conditions."

While primarily designed for Kentucky, Weather Alert can be used nationwide.

The app creators encourage feedback and invite users to send their suggestions and comments to [weather.alert@uky.edu](mailto:weather.alert@uky.edu) as they continue to develop and refine it.

Weather Alert is available for download on iOS and Android, with plans to expand to other platforms.

- To download via iOS, visit <https://apple.co/3wN3645>
- To download via Android, visit <https://bit.ly/4dUyxdq>



The development of Weather Alert was made possible through Smith-Lever/Land Grant Engagement funding, support from SCAHIP, and the UK Department of Biosystems & Ag Engineering.

Writer: Jordan Strickler, [jstrickler@uky.edu](mailto:jstrickler@uky.edu)



# 2024

## FLEMING COUNTY



# Farmers Market

LOCAL SELLERS BRINGING YOU THE FRESHEST CROPS & LOCALLY HANDMADE GOODS

## JUNE 15- OCTOBER 29

### NORMAL SUMMER HOURS:

TUESDAYS: 4PM- 7PM OR SELLOUT  
SATURDAYS: 8AM-1PM OR SELLOUT



FLEMING COUNTY FARMERS' MARKET

### SPECIAL DATES:

- SATURDAY, JUNE 15: OPENING DAY! (2 BASKETS TO BE GIVEN AWAY)
- TUESDAY, JUNE 18: FOOD TRUCK TUESDAY (THREE SILOS FOOD TRUCK)
- TUESDAY, JUNE 25: FOOD TRUCK TUESDAY (WILLY BOY'S FOOD TRUCK)
- TUESDAY, JULY 2: FOOD TRUCK TUESDAY (CLASSIC CRAVING FOOD TRUCK)
- TUESDAY, JULY 9: FOOD TRUCK TUESDAY (TRAVELING CAFE FOOD TRUCK)
- TUESDAY, JULY 16: FOOD TRUCK TUESDAY (THREE SILOS)
- TUESDAY, JULY 23: FOOD TRUCK TUESDAY (TRAVELING CAFE)
- TUESDAY, JULY 30: FOOD TRUCK TUESDAY (DAILEY'S GRILL)
- SATURDAY, AUGUST 3: CUSTOMER APPRECIATION (FREE MEAL W/ PURCHASE)
- TUESDAY, AUGUST 6: FOOD TRUCK TUESDAY (WILLY BOY'S)
- SATURDAY, AUGUST 10: DONNA FRYMAN DAY (FC HOMEMAKERS)
- TUESDAY, AUGUST 13: FOOD TRUCK TUESDAY (LIL JUMBOS PIZZA)
- TUESDAY, AUGUST 20: FOOD TRUCK TUESDAY (TRAVELING CAFE)
- TUESDAY, AUGUST 27: FOOD TRUCK TUESDAY (DAILEY'S GRILL)
- TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10: FOOD TRUCK TUESDAY (TRAVELING CAFE)
- TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17: FOOD TRUCK TUESDAY (TORTILLA JUNCTION)
- TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24: FOOD TRUCK TUESDAY (TRAVELING CAFE)
- TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29: SUMMER CLOSING DATE

**LOCATION: EXTENSION OFFICE PARKING LOT (1384 ELIZAVILLE RD, FLEMINGSBURG)**



WE GLADLY ACCEPT WIC VOUCHERS



# Common Challenges of Cow-calf Share Arrangements

By: *Kenny Burdine, University of Kentucky*



As an Extension economist that focuses in the area of livestock marketing, I always learn a lot by working through questions I get from stakeholders. A couple times each year a farmer or Extension agent will reach out to me hoping to understand what type of arrangement is typical when multiple individuals partner on a cow herd. The reality is that these arrangements tend to be very complex, and each one is unique. Often, one of the individuals provides the majority of the labor and management, while the other owns the land, cattle and equipment. From there, these arrangements vary greatly as to which party provides what and who is responsible for which expenses. It can be difficult to set share agreements up in a way that is attractive to both parties and this article will briefly talk through some of the reasons why.

First, large profits have historically been pretty elusive in the cow-calf business. I am well aware that I am writing this during a time when calf prices are extremely high and that can be seen in the Southern Plains calf price chart above. But the profit levels being seen during 2024 are much higher than what most would describe as “typical”. As one can imagine, I tend to get more questions about share arrangements when calf prices are high. But, when we discuss applying the proposed arrangement to a lower, long-run average calf price, there is often not enough revenue for both parties to be happy given the individual contributions they are making.

Secondly, producers need to have a good feel for their costs in order to fully think through a share arrangement. The fairest way to set up a cow-share agreement is for each party to share in revenues at roughly the same proportion as their cost contribution. Fleshing this out is simply not possible without a good understanding of those costs. This becomes further complicated by the fact that a lot of those costs tend to be non-cash contributions. For example, one party may be contributing the bulk of the labor / management, and a value needs to be placed on that time. If one of the parties is going to be responsible for cutting, raking, and rolling the hay, values must be placed on non-cash costs like depreciation on equipment, in addition to the operator’s time and the variable costs of producing that hay. Similarly, if one party owns the land being used for pasture and / or hay production, a value should be placed on the use of that ground.

Finally, cow-calf operations are not static; they change over time. Depending on forage availability and market conditions, the size of a cowherd will change from year to year. When heifers are held back for replacement purposes, this effectively lowers revenues for the cow-calf operation in the short run. During times when the cowherd is being expanded, short-term revenue can be greatly impacted. If the cows themselves are owned in partnership, this may not be an issue. But if one party owns the “cowherd”, the arrangement needs to find a fair way to compensate the other party for their share of heifers that are not sold. This can likely be done by placing a value on all calves at weaning, whether they are sold or retained, but a question still remains about the cost of developing those heifers that are retained for breeding purposes.

These are just three of the more common hurdles cow-calf operators tend to encounter as they explore a share arrangement on a cowherd. My goal in walking through those was not to imply that share arrangements are not possible. There are examples of successful arrangements and I think they can be a good way for someone to get started in the cattle business. But due to the complexity of cow-calf operations and the cyclical nature of calf markets, it is imperative that all parties fully think through all aspects of these arrangements before entering into an agreement.



# Plants that Plague Horse Hay

Foxtail isn't toxic to horses, but the spiky awns on its seedheads can become lodged in the soft palate of a horse's mouth, causing ulcers that make it difficult to eat. "It would be like having a ton of little slivers under your fingernails — that's painful," Dr. Krishona Martinson at Univ. of Minnesota explained. "The leaf blade isn't toxic. It's the seedhead that poses a physical issue."

Considering the prolific nature of the weed, Martinson said horses can tolerate a diet that contains up to 10% foxtail. With that said, individual bales may have relatively higher volumes of foxtail that can pose a more significant threat to animals. Excerpt of article in May 14 issue of Hay and Forage Grower by Amber Friedrichsen. For the full article with other weeds that are problems in horse hay go to [hayandforage.com](https://hayandforage.com) or use this direct link:

<https://hayandforage.com/article-4807-Four-plants-that-plague-horse-hay.html>



Kentucky  
Forage and  
Grassland  
Council

## KFGC Field Day-Makers Mark Farm-August 13

The Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council Field Day will be held Tuesday August 13 at Star Hill Farm from 4:30-7:30EDT in Loretto Kentucky. Participants will see and learn about grazing warm season cover crops, rotational grazing, native warm season grasses and pollinator production as well as sorghum production for syrup and grazing. UK Extension Specialists highlight forage production innovations at the farm at multiple tour stops.

Star Hill Farm is the home of Maker's Mark Distillery. Star Hill consists of approximately 1200 acres near Loretto in Marion County Kentucky. Approximately 300 acres of the farm is utilized to grow wheat and barley for use in Maker's Mark innovation products. Additionally, the farm is home to production of vegetables, fruit, lamb, Wagyu beef, sorghum, honey, mushrooms and truffles for use at the Distillery's restaurant.

Makers Mark has a strong commitment to the environment and sustainability. An important part of this is practicing regenerative agriculture to improve and restore soil and capture carbon. The principles of regenerative agriculture includes utilization of no-till planting, planting cover crops on fields after harvest, and grazing the cover crops to cycle nutrients back into the soil. Star Hill Farm has been certified by "Regenified," an international organization that conducts on-site audits to determine that an entity is meeting all of the standards for Regenerative Agriculture.

Come learn more about grazing strategies and regenerative agriculture! A meal will be provided for participants at the end of the field day. For those interested, an opportunity for a free tour of the distillery and bourbon tasting will be available prior to the field day (limited number). To sign-up for the field day go to "UK Forages" under Events or phone the Marion County extension office at 270-692-2421.

# Fleming County Conservation District- BACKYARD GRANT Program

This program offers a 50/50 reimbursement up to \$100 to assist Fleming County homeowners in establishing, enhancing, restoring, &/or maintaining a backyard conservation project. The purpose of this program is to promote the wise use of soil & water resources. A good environment enhances the life of human beings & animals.

## Eligibility & Requirements:

- 1 application per household
- Applications accepted 6/1-6/30/24 (you can get the application by stopping at the conservation district office at 74 Byron Way, Flemingsburg; by calling 606-845-6291 ext. 101 (you can have the application emailed or faxed))
- Reimbursement is 50% up to \$100
- Anyone living in Fleming County is eligible to apply
- Project must be completed 60 days after approval OR can be retroactive to 1-1-24.
- Photographs of the completed project & receipts must be submitted within 60 days after approval.

## Cost Shareable Items May Include:

- Seeds, seedlings, spores, cuttings, vegetable transplants potted, rooted cuttings, plants & scion/rootstock combinations, fruit trees. Excludes hemp (seeds, seedlings, clones, etc.). May also include pollinator oasis.
- Soil, media for plant production
- Containers for starting or growing plants (may include raised garden beds)
- Materials for trellis/support system
- Plastic or plasticulture supplies & plastic laying equipment for suppression of weed growth, soil temperature moderation, or soil moisture conservation in organic production
- Bird netting; insect netting
- Tree bags
- Specialized harvesting equipment, including mechanized tree spade (not self-propelled)
- Sod production equipment (not self-propelled): seeders, finishing mowers, turf tires, net layers, tillers, rollers, sprayers, nurse tanks, spray tips, sweepers, aerator
- Rain Barrel
- Compost bins
- Purple Martin houses
- Irrigation system
- Rain Gardens
- Greenhouse-build or repair
- Pollinator Garden
- Beekeeping supplies/Hives
- Bat Houses
- Soil Testing (max of 2 soil tests per person/location)



**Contact the Fleming County Conservation District  
for more information (606) 845-6291**



# *Parks for* **Pollinators** *BioBlitz*



## What it is

The *Parks for Pollinators BioBlitz* is a national effort for people to find and document pollinator friendly plants and pollinators across the country in partnership with their local park and recreation agency. It is a national campaign to see who can make the most observations, engage the most people and promote pollinator awareness and education. The results not only make an impact for awareness of pollinators nationally and for those that participate, but they also help agencies know what pollinator and plant species are in their parks and helps them plan for how to protect them and promote biodiversity.



## How you can help

- We need folks to assist in taking pictures anywhere around Fleming County of pollinators and pollinator plants with the iNaturalist app (a special login is needed & will be provided to those interested in helping).
- Groups are encouraged to host a pollinator activity during the month of September to help promote the program.
- Interested in participating? Please scan the QR code below.



**ATTENTION FLEMING COUNTY RESIDENTS**

# June is National Pollinator Month!



- 1** Create a pollinator garden! Choose native flowers that will provide a food source for pollinators.
- 2** Educate yourself about pollinators by taking a class from your local county extension office.
- 3** Create a bee hotel as a safe spot for bees or make seed bombs with wildflower seeds!
- 4** Participate in citizen science by tracking pollinator populations in your area!

#ukyextension

An Equal Opportunity Organization.

## Important Dates



- **June 1-30 | Fleming Co. Conservation District Backyard Grant Program Sign Up**
- **June 3-28 | USDA-FSA Grassland Conservation Reserve Program Sign Up**
- **June 11 | Woodland Owners Short Course Session 1 | Zoom**
- **June 12 | Horticulture Webinar Wednesday: *Focus on Foliage* | 12:30PM | Zoom**
- **June 13 | Woodland Owners Short Course Session 2 | Zoom**
- **June 15 | Farmers Market Opening Day! | 8:00AM**
- **June 18 | Woodland Owners Short Course Session 3 | Zoom**
- **June 19 | Juneteenth Holiday | Offices Closed**
- **June 19 | Horticulture Webinar Wednesday: *Growing Pecans & Hickory* | 12:30PM | Zoom**
- **June 20 | Woodland Owners Short Course Session 4 | Zoom**
- **June 25 | Woodland Owners Short Course Session 5 | Zoom**
- **June 26 | Horticulture Webinar Wednesday: *Mason Bees* | 12:30PM | Zoom**
- **July 13 | Woodland Owners Short Course In-Person Field Session | Robinson Forest**
- **August 13 | KY Forage & Grassland Council Field Day | 4:30PM-7:30PM | Makers Mark Farm**
- **September 1-30 | Parks for Pollinators BioBlitz**
- **October 8 | Bull Value Assessment Program Session 1 | 6:00PM | Mason County Ext. Office**
- **October 15 | Bull Value Assessment Program Session 2 (must attend session 1) | 6:00PM | MCEO**