NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER 2025 EDITION



UK MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT KSU COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY AND THE SCIENCES

CRITTENDEN COUNTY AG NEWS

Crittenden County 1534 US Hwy 60 E Marion, KY 42064 270-965-5236 Fax: 270-965-5237

Doe Heimgartner

IN THIS ISSUE

• Holiday How To Series
• Beef Management Webinar

• All About Goats! Webinar

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

KSBA Conference

November

- 3- All About Goats Webinar, online
- 13- Crop Webinar, online
- 13- Beef Webinar, online
- 15-KSBA Conference, Owensboro*
- 17- All About Goats Webinar, online
- 20- Crop Webinar, Online
- 22- West KY Bred Heifer Sale, Guthrie
- 27-28 Office Closed for Thanksgiving

December

- 1- All About Goats Webinar, Online
- 8- Evergreen Wreath Class, 5:30 PM, St. William Church

Featured Publication & Recipe

- 9- CPH Sale, Guthrie
- 11- Beef Webinar, online
- 15- All About Goats Webinar, online
- 24- January 2- Office Closed for Holidays

Please call the office to register for events so we can contact people in case of cancellations

- +Dee is driving, if you want a ride please call
- *Community Christmas



CHRISTMAS CLASSES



MAKING SPIRITS BRIGHT: A HOLIDAY HOW TO SERIES

MERRY & THRIFTY DECEMBER 1ST AT 5:30 LIONS CLUB BUILDING

Give gifts of love and not money. Learn some ideas on how to give thoughtful gifts your family and friends will love without breaking the bank. Plus- Get a few wrapping tips along the way.

DIY- EVERGREEN WREATH

DECEMBER 8TH AT 5:30 ST. WILLIAM PARISH HALL (860 SOUTH MAIN)

Make and take your own evergreen wreath. All materials will be provided, particpants are encouraged to bring their own gloves.





COOKIE CRAZE

DECEMBER 15TH AT 5:30 LIONS CLUB BUILDING

Learn tips and tricks and decorate your own cookies. There will be an optional cookie exchange. If you want to particpate in the Cookie Exchange bring 2 dozen of your own cookies and recipes.

To register for any of these classes call 270-965-5236







It's time to make your own evergreen wreath!! This year's class will be December 8. Call the office to register.

FRUIT & VEGETABLE CONFERENCE

Dee will be attending part of the Fruit & Vegetable Conference. If you want to ride with Dee one of those days then call the office.



26th Annual

West Kentucky Select Bred Heifer Sale

KENTUCKY - TENNESSEE LIVESTOCK MARKET **GUTHRIE, KENTUCKY**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2025 12:00 NOON CENTRAL TIME

SEE THESE HEIFERS AT WWW.KYHEIFERSALE.COM

All heifers are guaranteed bred to bulls with genomic enhanced EPDs and have met stringent requirements for health, quality and pelvic measurements.

> For more information Contact: Kevin Laurent, University of Kentucky (270) 625-0994

> Mark Barnett, KY-TN Livestock Market (931) 624-7176 Tom Barnett, KY-TN Livestock Market (931) 624-7376



Sponsored by Univ. of Kentucky and Univ. of Tennessee Cooperative Extension Service

UK 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. (If you have previously registered, you do not need to re-register). You will receive an invitation and password the morning of the presentation. Zoom will start at 8:00 Eastern/7:00 Central.



November 13

Winter Feeding Approaches: Matching Strategy to Your Herd and Resources - Dr. Katie VanValin, Assistant Professor, **University of Kentucky**



December 11

Shooting the Bull: Answering all your Beef-Related Questions! -Updates and Roundtable discussion



January 8

Making the Most of the Good Years: Profits, Reinvestment, and Tax Management in Beef Cattle - Jonathan Shepherd, Agricultural Extension Specialist, University of Kentucky



February 12

Impact of Bull Nutrition During Development on Semen Quality -Dr. Pedro Fontes, Associate Professor, University of Georgia

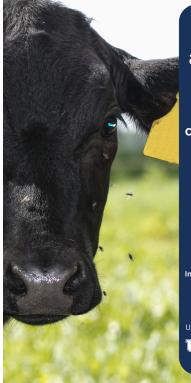


March 12

Bull Selection Practices in Kentucky: What are we Doing Right and What Could we Improve! - Dr. Darrh Bullock, Extension Professor, **University of Kentucky**

If you have any questions or need additional information please email dbullock@uky.edu. If you are already registered you will get a Zoom invitation the morning of each session with the link and password.

Cattle Owners!



What's buggin' you and your cattle? We want to know!

Tell us about pests of your cattle to inform research and education in Kentucky



Investigators

Hannah Tiffin, PhD Assistant Professor Entomology Dept. MG-CAFE University of Kentucky

Kenneth Burdine, PhD Agricultural Economics Dept. MG-CAFE University of Kentucky





Crittenden County Cattleman's Association is working on a winter meeting, stay tuned for the date.

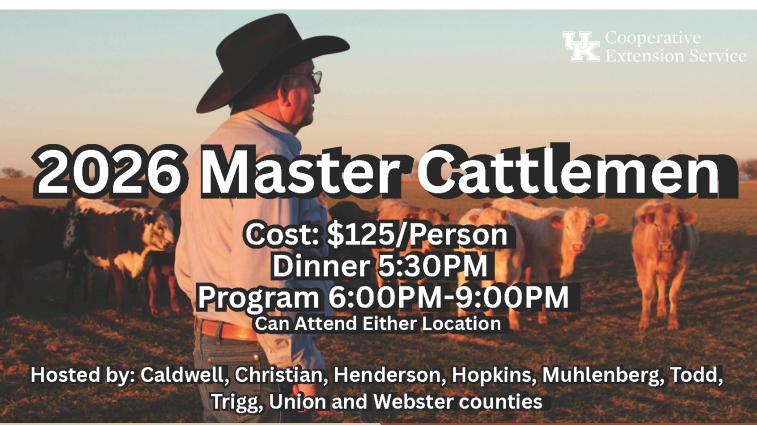
The Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment is an Equal Opportunity Organization with respect to education and employment and authorization to provide research, education information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to economic or 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.

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 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.



Location 1:

Hopkins Co Extension Office 25 Mahr Park Dr. Madisonville, KY

Jan 5: Genetics, Dr. Darrh Bullock Jan 12: Reproduction/Record Keeping, Dr. Les Anderson

Jan 26: Herd Health, Dr. Michelle Arnold Feb 2: Forages, Dr. Chris Teutsch

Feb 9: Nutrition, Dr. Katie VanValin

Feb 16: Marketing & Profitability,

Kevin Laurent

Feb 23: Facilities & Winter Feeding,
Dr. Katie VanValin

Location 2:

Christian Co Extension Office 2850 Pembroke Rd Hopkinsville, KY

Jan 6: Genetics, Dr. Darrh Bullock Jan 13: Reproduction/Record Keeping, Dr. Les Anderson

Jan 27: Herd Health, Dr. Michelle Arnold

Feb 3: Forages, Dr. Chris Teutsch

Feb 10: Nutrition, Dr. Katie VanValin

Feb 17: Marketing & Profitability,

Kevin Laurent

Feb 24: Facilities & Winter Feeding,
Dr. Katie VanValin

To sign up and pay (cash or check: payable to the Caldwell County Soil Lab) visit the Caldwell County Extension Office located at 1025 US HWY 62 W. Princeton, KY.

DEADLINE TO SIGN UP: December 19, 2025

The Master Cattleman program is the flagship educational program for Kentucky cattle producers. This program incorporates all aspects of beef production into a mid-level educational program developed to provide foundational knowledge to allow Kentucky beef producers to be competitive and successful. Participants will receive up to 40 hours of classroom instruction and must attend all sessions to receive certification!

FESCUE TOXICITY IN THE FALL: IS THIS AN ISSUE KENTUCKY FORAGE NEWS

The last four late summers and falls have had extended dry periods, followed by late-fall rains. This has made fall forage establishment and fall stockpiling difficult since dependable rains have come very late. These long dry periods have also caused considerable stress on cool-season forages. In many parts of the region, Kentucky bluegrass was completely dormant, and many orchardgrass stands have thinned. On the other hand, KY-31 tall fescue plants have only shown reduced growth with leaf curling (a drought survival response), but the endophyte has allowed good survival of these plants. When the fall rains finally came, fescue-predominant pastures were the first ones to green up.

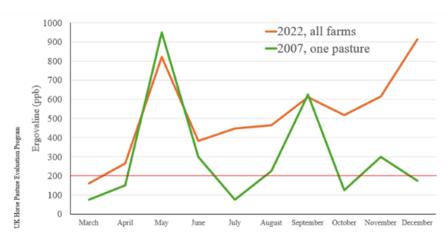
Unfortunately, the new growth after these periods of drought stress has shown abnormally high levels of ergovaline, the toxic alkaloid in KY-31 tall fescue. Normally, the highest levels of ergovaline are in May and June when seedheads are present and lower in the fall when the plants are in a vegetative stage, but it seems that these higher ergovaline levels are some type of drought response in the plant. The high fall ergovaline levels have also extended into early winter since hard freezes (<25

degrees) seem to be coming later the last few years.

You might ask, "Why should I care?" We normally aren't concerned about toxicity in tall fescue during the fall, and this is part of the reason that fall calving has been encouraged in the region. The lower ergovaline in the fall allows good milk production for fall calves and fewer rebreeding issues than with spring calving herds. These herds are being bred during the very toxic late spring period. Although we have not conducted systematic research, below are anecdotal reports from KY farms from the fall of 2024.

The following observations are from UK's Dr. Les Anderson. Last fall, I had several questions regarding fescue toxicosis from grazing fescue regrowth after Hurricane Helene. One producer was breeding late October/early November and had zero conception rate on cows with a long history of great conception. He also had 30% of his herd get tender feet during this period, and he treated for foot rot, even though it did not appear to be foot rot. Another producer called and had a few abortions during this period on his January calving cows. His cow's feet were also tender. Dr. Chris Teutsch shared the following observations from when he worked in Virginia. We had a major drought one year, 18" behind at one point in time. About mid-August, it started to rain, and we got the most beautiful stockpiled tall fescue that I can remember. Later that fall, we had a laundry list of fescue-related issues, including little or no milk and thickened placentas. The issues were the worst on farms that were practicing good grazing management and had good soil fertility. They were creating an environment in which fescue thrived.

Figure 1. The bottom line shows the normal ergovaline levels during a one year period and the upper line shows what happened in 2022. We saw similar results ir 2023 and 2024. With cattle it's best if they are not consuming more than 500ppb ergovaline in their total diet. Note: in mixed pastures make sure to take into account the dilution factor. If fescue is 1000ppb but they it's only half of their diet, then they are only consuming 500ppm.



$$\left(\begin{array}{c} \text{\% Tall Fescue} \\ \hline \text{\% Tall Fescue} + \text{\%} \\ \text{Other Forages} \end{array} \right) \times \begin{array}{c} \text{Ergovaline} \\ \text{(ppb)} \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \textbf{Ergovaline in} \\ \textbf{total Diet} \\ \textbf{(ppb)} \end{array}$$

FESCUE TOXICITY IN THE FALL: IS THIS AN ISSUE (CONT.)

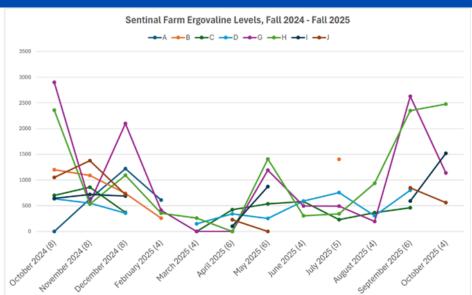


Figure 2. The UK forage group has been monitoring tall fescue ergovaline levels on four different farms in Central KY and two pastures on each farm. Here are the results over the last year. One farm had extremely high ergovaline levels, but other farms still had concerning levels. Again, remember that it's not the ergovaline that matters but what percentage of high ergovaline fescue is in their total diet.

Below are some observations from a retired county agent in KY concerning breeding success last fall. One farm had less than 15% success with embryo transfer on a herd of over 20 cows. Bulls did get a better conception of the next cycle, but there were still some that were late. Another local producer had a herd of 35 cows, which were A.I.ed with timed insemination. He had 8 out of the 35 conceive. The clean-up bull did get pregnancies, but still disappointing results. Two other herds that do a lot of embryo work reported very poor results. On the other hand, a herd on Novel endophyte fescue had 3 out of 3 embryo recipients conceive and carry the pregnancy, and 8 out of 11 conceive on a timed A.I. What can you do? If you are seeing issues or have in the past few years, you can take cows off predominant tall fescue pastures in the fall (wait until a couple of hard freeze periods before putting them back on these pastures). Legumes, especially red clover, help alleviate fescue toxicity. Therefore, feed hay containing red clover. An alternative is feeding soybeans (2 lbs per day) or soyhulls (5 lbs per day). You can completely renovate your most toxic fields with novel endophyte tall fescue and have your cows on these fields before, during, and just after the breeding season. You can also test for ergovaline levels by submitting fall fescue samples from your pasture to the UK Vet Diagnostic lab. Then you can better determine which fields are the safest for grazing during the fall.

Fld	Tall Fescue (%)	Other Forages (%)	Undesired plants/bare soil (%)	Endophyte (%)	Ergovaline (ppb)	Ergovaline in Total Diet (ppb)
1	23	45	30	97	2000	676 💥
2	35	25	40	94	226	132 🗸
3	40	37	23	23	175	91 🗸
4	9	13	78	81	600	245
5	9	13	78	81	1800	735 💥

Figure 3. The level of ergovaline in the total diet indicates the potential risk for livestock. We assume that most animals readily consume tall fescue and other forages like bluegrass, orchardgrass and clover, but are less likely to consume weeds. For example, late term pregnant mares should not have over 200ppb ergovaline in their total diet. For cattle, the numbers are less precise, but generally fescue toxicity issues may be observed when ergovaline levels in the diet are consistently over 500ppb. See below for examples of ergovaline in the total diet based on the amount of tall fescue, other forages, and undesired plants/bare soil.

KY STATE BEEKEEPERS FALL CONFERENCE



We are roadtrippin' again for the KSBA Fall Conference! If you would like to ride please call the office by November 12.

CWD DROP OFF LOCATION



Crittenden County Extension is a drop off location for CWD samples. If you wish to participate bring harvest deer to freezer which is behind the side porch at the Extension Annex and follow the directions on the freezer. We hope all hunters have a safe and successful deer season.

SIGN UP FOR EMAIL LIST

Sign up to receive office emails. Make sure you select the ANR option to get emails directly from me! Just scan the code and answer a few questions.



KENTUCKY FARM BUSINESS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Kentucky Farm Business Management Program is a program of the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University of Kentucky. Extension Specialists serve four Farm Analysis Associations working with cooperating members to improve farm management techniques and decisions through recordkeeping and analysis. Currently, KFBM serves 355 farms that are representative of 49 counties. KFBM specialists work closely with diverse farm cooperators.

Program members receive one-on-one consultations and a broad range of financial planning and analysis services from their regional specialist throughout the year, while the university gains real-world data from operations across the commonwealth to inform and guide efforts and decisions across areas of research, extension and teaching.



Crittenden County producers who are interested in working with KYFBM can call the Pennyroyal Area office based in Hopkinsville at 270-886-5281.

UPCOMING WEBINARS

All About Goats! Webinar

JOIN EXTENSION AND INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS FOR THE FALL 2025 SERIES



Goat Health and Care Sept. 22

During this session, Extension Specialist, Dr. Brady Campbell, will review proper care for goats of all ages and explain how to help keep them healthy and continue production.

Farm Business and Management Oct. 6

Extension Specialist Fric Richer and Extension Educator, Pressley Buurma, will help guide participants in farm management strategies and provide options for enterprise budgeting and record keeping as it relates to goat production.

Goat Processing Oct. 20

Throughout this presentation. Extension Specialist, Dr. Lyda Garcia, will explain the cuts of a carcass and how to process a goat at home.

Livestock Marketing Nov. 3

Join us as Extension Specialist Garth Ruff, discusses the ins and outs of the goat market. He will also discuss how to market goats to fill the current wants and needs of the customers

Hay and Grain Production Nov. 17

Throughout this session, Extension Educator Jordan Penrose will present tips and tricks on hay and grain production for goats as well as what type of crops would work best for your production system.

Covote Management

Dec. 1

This session is going to focus on how to manage interactions between coyotes and goats. Experts will also explain the current status of coyote research in Ohio.

Open Forum: Ask Me Anything Dec. 15

Have a burning question that was not answered during one of our past webinar sessions? Join Extension Educators and Specialists to get your questions answered!

Webinars are hosted via Zoom (7-8 p.m. EST). Register at: go.osu.edu/allaboutgoats25



Crop protection webinars begin Oct. 30th

Register now for multiple webinars focusing on agronomic crops and Integrated Pest Management. The University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment will present the 2025 Fall Crop Protection Webinar Series, hosted through the Southern Integrated Pest Management Center. The series will begin at 10 a.m. ET/9 a.m. CT on Thursday, Oct. 30, 2025, and will continue consecutive Thursday mornings through Nov. 20 at the same time. Each webinar will be one hour in length. Continuing Education Units for certified crop advisors will include 1 CEU in Integrated Pest Management per webinar or 4 CEUs total for participation in all four webinars; Kentucky pesticide applicators will receive 1 CEU in Category 1A (Ag Plant) for each webinar attended.

The webinars are open to agriculture and natural resource county extension agents, crop consultants, farmers, industry professionals, and others, whether they reside or work in Kentucky or outside the state. Preregistration is required by clicking on the links below.



Webinar #1: Oct. 30, 2025; 9 a.m. CT — Dr. Carl Bradley, Extension Plant Pathologist Title: Research Update on Red Crown Rot of Soybean

Registration link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_lyKRsRuTR7iSKjzMCGh36g



Webinar #2: Nov. 6, 2025: 9 a.m. CT — Dr. Raul Villanueva, Extension Entomologist Title: Delayed Appearance or Declining Insect Pest Numbers in Field Crops in Recent Years Registration link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_gmiW6VE5R5GzmJJulSbiDw



Webinar #3: Nov. 13, 2025; 9 a.m. CT — Dr. Kiersten Wise, Extension Plant Pathologist Title: Stopping Southern Rust: Scouting, Spraying, and Staying Ahead Registration link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uRGIZOK-T1KCnRBvU3LscA



Webinar #4: Nov. 20, 2025; 9 a.m. CT — Dr. Travis Legleiter, Extension Weeds Specialist Title: Defense Wins the Ryegrass Battle







AUTUMN WINDS CHRISTINE AIENA- NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, WILMINGTON, OHIO





Autumn is widely recognized as the "season of change," as the environment undergoes visible transformations, including the alteration of leaf colors, the shortening and cooling of days, which in turn instigates shifts in animal migration patterns and concludes the growing season. Concurrently, the dog days of stagnant summer air are replaced by cool and breezy conditions. As we head into the autumn months, it's a good time to review wind and wind-related products the National Weather Service can issue.

Larger differences in air masses during autumn can lead to stronger frontal passages and storm systems; it's not uncommon for a strong low pressure system to move through with howling winds, only to depart leaving the trees bare of any color and leaves! These strong systems can cause structural damage and even injuries or, in rare circumstances, deaths. When wind speeds are sustained around 40 to 50 MPH, isolated wind damage is possible, like downed trees or branches, missing shingles or siding to homes, and downed power poles/lines. However, when higher wind speeds occur, even more significant damage is possible. A great example of this is when the remnants of Hurricane Helene moved through the Tennessee and Ohio Valleys last year. When a system like this moves through, the National Weather Service will issue Wind Advisories or High Wind Watches/Warnings. We'll break down the differences in the wind related products below:

High Wind Watch: Be Prepared! Sustained, strong winds are possible. Secure loose outdoor items and adjust plans as necessary so you're not caught outside.

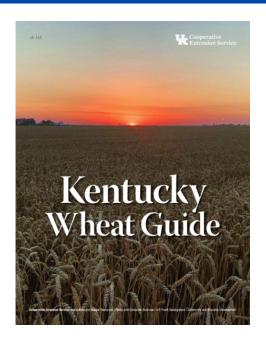
Wind Advisory: Take Action! Strong winds are occurring but are not so strong as to warrant a High Wind Warning. Objects that are outdoors should be secured and caution should be taken if driving.

High Wind Warning: Take Action! Sustained, strong winds with even stronger gusts are happening. Seek shelter. If you are driving, keep both hands on the wheels and slow down.

You can prepare for the strong winds ahead and hopefully prevent damage to your property, or worse, by taking the following steps:

- -Trim tree branches away from your home and powerlines; secure loose gutters/shingles.
- -Identify an interior room, such as a basement or interior bathroom, where you can take shelter during high wind events.
- -Make a list of items outside of your home that you may need to bring inside or tie down so they don't blow away or fly through a window. Additionally, have a plan for your livestock and any outdoor pets for high wind events.
- -Have an emergency kit ready! Include items such as spare food, water, and medication to last up to three days for each person in your home: remember, roads may be impassible due to debris making pharmacy or grocery trips difficult or impossible. Plan to have a light source in case power goes out, such as a flashlight or candles.

FEATURED PUBLICATION



ID-125 Kentucky Wheat Guide Stop by the office to get your copy today!

FEATURED RECIPE



Game Stuffed Peppers

Ingredients: 6 medium bell peppers 1 medium onion, diced 2 garlic cloves, minced, or 1 teaspoon garlic powder 1 tablespoon olive oil 1 pound ground venison, elk, or beef 1 tablespoon salt-free herb blend 1 teaspoon ground pepper 1 teaspoon dried oregano 1 I5-ounce can no-salt added tomato sauce 1 cup cooked rice 4 ounces Monterey Jack Cheese, shredded

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F.

Gently scrub peppers with a clean vegetable brush under cool running water.

Cut off curved top of pepper. Remove stem only and throw away. Dice remaining part of pepper top. Scoop out and discard seeds and pith from bottom part of each pepper. Preheat a 12-inch cast iron skillet over medium heat.

Add olive oil to the skillet. Sauté the diced pepper and Onion for 3 to S minutes, until they begin to soften. Add ground venison, garlic, salt-free herb blend, pepper, and oregano. Cook 3 to S minutes

Add the tomato sauce and rice to the skillet. Stir to combine.

Fill peppers with rice and meat mixture. Top with shredded cheese.

Bake for 30 to 40 minutes, or until peppers are soft and cheese is melted.

Serve immediately. Store leftovers in the refrigerator within 2 hours.

Source: Cook Wild Kentucky Project

Nutrition facts per serving: 280 calories; 9g total fat; 3.Sg saturated fat; Og trans fat; 75mg cholesterol; 380mg sodium; 25g carbohydrate; 4g dietary fiber; 9g total sugars; Og added sugar; 26g protein; 0% Daily Value of vitamin D; 15% Daily Value of calcium; 30% daily value of iron; 6% Daily Value of potassium.