

Mercer County Extension Office 1007 Lexington Road Harrodsburg, KY 40330

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# Agriculture Natural Resources **Newsletter April**, 2025



Linda McClanahan Mercer County Extension Agent for ANR



**BQCA** Trainings Thursday, April 10, 10am OR 6pm Mercer County Extension Office RSVP required

ASSURANCE

What is Beef Quality and Care Assurance? The Kentucky Beef Quality & Care Assurance (BQCA) Program is based on

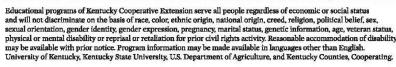
recommended national guidelines and scientific research. This program enables beef and dairy producers to enhance their product, maximize marketability and strengthen consumer confidence. Kentucky Beef Quality and Care Assurance takes national BQA practices one step further to provide the best program for Kentucky producers. The BQCA program adds a cattle handling and care component to the training model. Educational modules provide the best management practices for handling cattle and providing their wellbeing, while also training on the core principles of BQCA.

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	April 3 April 7 April 12 April 12 April 19 <b>April 21</b>	Fort Harrod Backcountry Horsemen, 7 PM Sheep & Goat Educational Meeting, 5:30 PM Norby's Farm Fleet Grand Opening, 11:30am -1:30pm 4-H Breakfast with the Easter Bunny, 8-11:30am, The Stable Shaker Village Easter Egg Hunt, 10 AM-2 PM Shred Truck Day at the Extension Office, 1-4pm
	April 22 April 26	Earth Day McRay Customer Appreciation Day, 11am-1pm
	May 1 May 8 May 11 May 26 May 29 May 31	Fort Harrod Backcountry Horsemen Meeting, 7 PM Mercer County Extension Council Meeting, 6 PM Mother's Day Memorial Day, Extension Office Closed Alpha Gal Meeting, 7 PM Mercer County Dairy Breakfast
Cooperative MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONME		MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

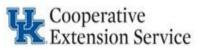
**Extension Service** 

#### Agriculture and Natural Resources Family and Consumer Sciences 4-H Youth Development Community and Economic Development



Lexington, KY 40506





Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment



**Cooperative Extension Service** Mercer County 1007 Lexington Road Harrodsburg, KY 40330 (859) 734-4378 Fax: (859) 734-4379 mercer.ca.uky.edu

#### Did you know?

The phrase "April Showers bring May Flowers" comes from a poem from the 1500s by Thomas Tusser.

April is the equivalent of October in the Southern Hemisphere.

## ed Truck

## April 21 :00pm

oservance of Earth Day, Mercer County nsion Office will have "The Shred Truck" available for free to you!

your old documents & sensitive papers e recycled! Paper only. No electronics, etc. Staples do not have to be removed but please take off any paper clips.

### Road Harrodsburg, KY 40330

#### Preparing for Severe Weather: What You Need to Know

By Tony Edwards – National Weather Service Charleston, WV

In parts of the Deep South, the risk of severe thunderstorms persists throughout the winter months. For us here in the Bluegrass State, however, we're quickly approaching a time when thunderstorms become both more frequent and more intense. As winter storms make way for spring, severe weather-including damaging winds, hail, and even tornadoes—becomes the primary concern.

As I write this article in mid-March, much of the Bluegrass State is already facing the threat of severe weather, a common occurrence for this time of year. Data from the National Weather Service's Storm Prediction Center reveals that the likelihood of severe weather increases as March progresses, peaking in mid-June at around 4%. This means, based on historical data alone, residents of Kentucky have a 4% chance of experiencing damaging winds, hail larger than quarters, or a tornado within 25 miles of their home in the middle of June! The risk then significantly decreases by mid-September.

Given this, now is the time to start preparing for the upcoming severe weather season. The first step is simple: be aware that severe weather is a real possibility. Make checking your local forecast part of your daily routine to stay informed and prepared.

• Did You Know? The National Weather Service (NWS) offices that serve Kentucky offer a 24-hour recorded weather forecast, and in many cases, you can even speak to a live person if you have guestions about the forecast. Contact your local NWS office to learn more!

#### **Preparing for Severe Weather**

When severe weather is in the forecast, it's essential to take action ahead of time. Start by ensuring you have access to emergency supplies. This is particularly important if you live in an area prone to flooding and might need to evacuate on short notice.

Make sure you know where your safe spaces are. In most cases, this is the lowest floor of your house, preferably a basement. If you don't have a basement, an interior room with no windows and doors will suffice. If you own livestock, consider moving them to a protected area, especially if hail is in the forecast.

#### **Stay Informed on Severe Weather Days**

When severe weather is expected, it's crucial to stay vigilant. Be prepared to adjust outdoor plans if necessary and remain alert to weather updates.

• Did You Know? NOAA Weather Radios are specialized devices designed to broadcast weather information and activate alarms when severe weather alerts are issued. Many models run on battery or solar power and do not include an AM/FM radio. You're likely near a transmitter, making this a reliable option to stay updated. Check out these handy radios at your local store to keep your home prepared.

#### Understanding Watches and Warnings

- Severe Thunderstorm and Tornado Watches: Issued when conditions are favorable for severe weather or tornadoes in the near future.
- Severe Thunderstorm and Tornado Warnings: Issued when severe weather or tornadoes are occurring or imminent. This is when you need to act fast!

### When a warning is issued, take shelter immediately.

You may only have seconds to respond, so knowing what to do and where to go is essential.

### APRIL MONTHLY TIPS

- Graze winter annuals that were planted last fall.

- allow growth to accumulate for hay or haylage.
- Wires going under gates should be buried to a depth of approximately one foot.



### **Carrot Cake Smoothie**

#### 1 medium

- frozen ripe banana 2 medium carrots, chopped
- 1/2 cup cannedin-juice pineapple tidbits, drained
- 1/4 cup low-fat vanilla vogurt
- 1/2 cup nonfat milk 4-5 ice cubes
- Dash cinnamon (optional)
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract (optional)

Wash hands with soap and warm water. scrubbing for at least 20 seconds. Rinse carrots under cool running water and scrub with a clean vegetable brush to remove any dirt before chopping. Add banana, carrot, pineapple, yogurt, milk, ice, and cinnamon and vanilla (if using) to a blender, and blend until smooth. If needed, add more milk to encourage blending. Refrigerate leftovers.

Yield: 2, 1.5 cup servings. Nutrition Analysis: 160 calories, 1g total fat, Og saturated fat, 5mg cholesterol, 90mg sodium, 36g total carbohydrate, 4g fiber, 26g total sugars, 2g added sugars, 5g protein, 6% DV vitamin D, 10% DV calcium, 6% DV iron, 5% DV potassium

As pasture growth begins, rotate through pastures quickly to keep up with rapid spring growth. Creep-graze calves and lambs, allowing them access to highest-quality pasture.

As pasture growth exceeds the needs of the livestock, remove some fields from the rotation and

Determine need for supplemental warm season forages such as pearl millet or sudangrass. Flash graze pastures newly seeded with clovers to reduce grass competition.

Always use underground cable designed for electric fencing and place it in protective tubing. It is very important to only use underground cable that is designed for electric fence. Never use any product that is intended for residential use. Whenever a cable carrying current is run under the ground, always place it in some type of pipe or conduit that will protect it from future damage.

> Registration begins at 5:30pm Monday, April ge of unty Exte 0 ure, Food & En Offices of Mer amb 0 (SEKSP, na 00 nn P P P











