

Mercer County Extension Office
1007 Lexington Road
Harrodsburg, KY 40330

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Agriculture Natural Resources Newsletter May, 2025



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



Linda McClanahan

Linda McClanahan
Mercer County Extension Agent for ANR

Did you know? The history of American Mother's Day starts with peacemaker Ann Jarvis. During and after the Civil War, Ann Jarvis made a concerted effort to foster friendship and community between the mothers on both sides. She started a committee in 1868 which established the first glimmer of today's holiday: "Mother's Friendship Day." Ann's daughter Anna continued her legacy by creating the official holiday. Anna Reeves Jarvis sought to honor her own mother by establishing an intimate day of observance that is the basis of today's holiday. The very first Mother's Day was celebrated in 1908.



May 1	Fort Harrod Backcountry Horsemen Meeting, 7 PM
May 3	Kentucky Derby Day
May 8	Mercer County Extension Council Meeting, 6 PM
May 11	Mother's Day
May 22	Sheep & Goat Educational Meeting
May 26	Memorial Day, Extension Office Closed
May 29	Alpha Gal Meeting, 7 PM
May 31	Mercer County Dairy Breakfast

June is National Dairy Month	
June 7	Harrodsburg District Dairy Show, 9 AM
June 14	Shaker Village Vintage Dads Day, 12-4 PM
June 15-21	National Forage Week



Cooperative Extension Service

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

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification

MERCER COUNTY DAIRY SHOW DAIRY MONTH BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

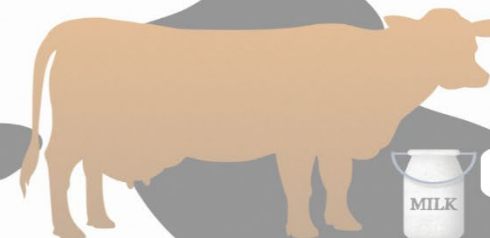


**JOIN US ON
SATURDAY, MAY 31**

7:00 - 10:30 AM

**MERCER COUNTY
EXTENSION OFFICE
1007 LEXINGTON RD
HARRODSBURG**

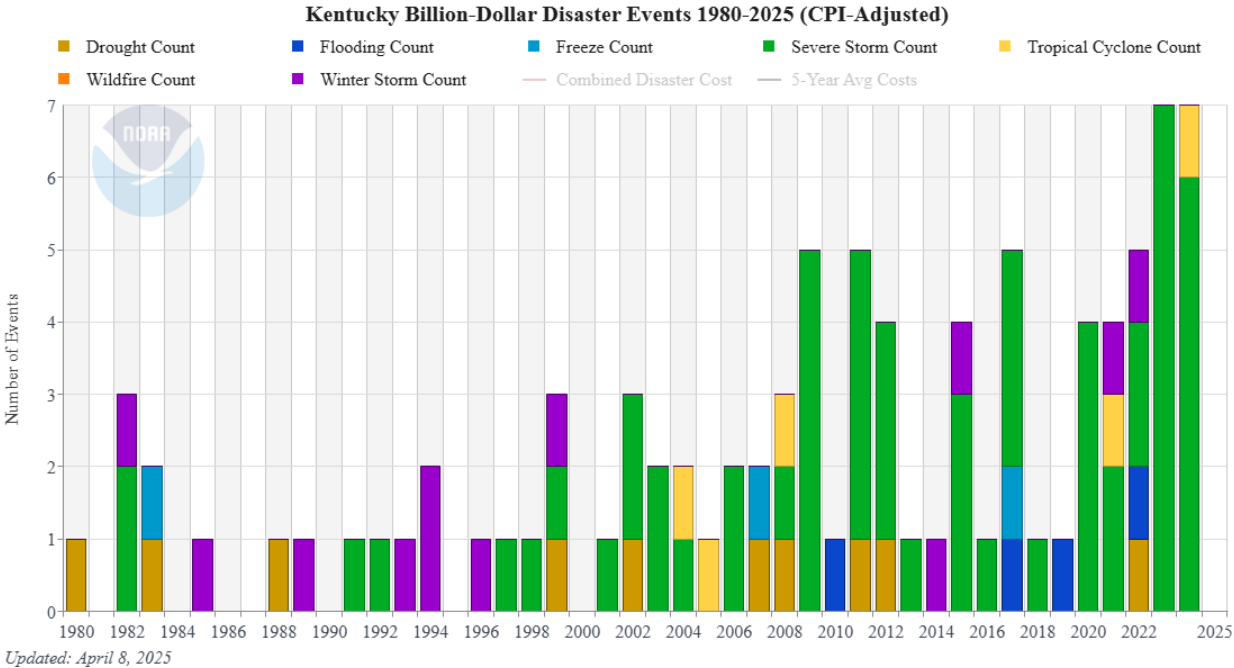
**MORE INFO CALL:
CALL (859) 734-4378
\$5.00 - PAY AT THE DOOR
PROCEEDS TO SUPPORT MERCER
COUNTY FAIR DAIRY SHOW**



Unlucky Kentucky?
Jane Marie Wix – National Weather Service Jackson, KY

This article was originally supposed to be centered around flash flooding safety - but I think the state has seen its fair share of both flash and river flooding over these past few months. Does it ever feel like Kentucky needs a break from all this crazy and impactful weather!? It seems like if one side of the state isn't being impacted, the other side is. Just since February, Kentucky has seen a major flash flood event, an impactful snow storm, another historic river flooding event, and a tornado/severe thunderstorm outbreak. I'm likely missing some smaller events that occurred in between as well.

If you're thinking that the amount of impactful weather events has gone up - you aren't wrong! In fact, a recent Acuweather article renamed us as "Unlucky Kentucky". Between tornadoes, flash flooding, river flooding, winter storms, ice storms, and high wind events - we've seen just about every weather type over the last few years. We even had widespread damage on the eastern side of the state due to the remnants of a hurricane (Irene) last fall! In just the last two years, the state has been part of 14 separate billion-dollar disasters, according to NOAA (<https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/mapping>) with 2023 and 2024 tying for the highest number on record since tracking began in 1980. That's not taking into account any of the historic flooding and severe weather that has taken place so far in April, which impacted large portions of this state and neighboring states.



A study published in the journal "npj Climate and Atmospheric Science" in 2018 showed that the ingredients required for producing long-lived tornadoes were flourishing more in the Mississippi River Valley in the last 20 years, compared to parts of the original "Tornado Alley". In other words, "Tornado Alley" once located through the Great Plains is shifting south and east, and it now includes parts of western Kentucky.

On the east side of the state, residents are well aware that so long as heavy rains occur in the hills of eastern Kentucky, so too will the flash flood threat. And while it is harder to get tornadoes in the mountains, recent history shows us that even the mountains can't protect us when Mother Nature decides to intervene. The heavily forested areas of this area of the state can also be prone to forest fires when dry periods and droughts occur, especially when coupled with high winds.

One of the main reasons we started creating these articles is to help people in communities across Kentucky become more weather aware and weather prepared in the face of these events. Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that these large-scale/high-impact events will be letting up any time soon. While we all agree we need a break after these last few years, ultimately the weather is out of anyone's control. So the best thing we can do is try to become more resilient in the face of these disasters.

SHEEP & GOAT Educational Meeting & Lamb Dinner

Thursday, May 22



Registration begins at 5:30pm

Who: The County Extension Offices of Mercer, Boyle, Lincoln, Garrard, Jessamine, Woodford, Franklin, and Anderson Counties; the Southeast Kentucky Sheep Producers Association (SEKSPA); Kentucky Sheep and Wool Producers Association (KSWPA) and the University of Kentucky's Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food & Environment.

Registration is from 5:30-6:00 pm EST. Lamb Dinner starts at 6:00 with the educational program to follow.

How: Round-Table discussion led by: Patrick Angel, SEKSPA; Harry Frederick, KSWPA and Winding Creek Farms; Dr. Jessie Lay DVM, UK Extension Animal Health Veterinarian.

This meeting qualifies for CAIP Educational requirement.

Mercer County Extension Office
1007 Lexington Road—Harrodsburg, KY

KENTUCKY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Registration Required.

Please RSVP by May 20
Call the Mercer County Extension Office at 859-734-4378
\$10.00 per family (collected at the door)

Your registration fee will include a delicious lamb dinner with sides and a One-Year Membership to SEKSPA.

Grillo's Pickles® & King's Hawaiian Spicy Cheeseburger Slider

Lean Ground Beef sliders are spiced up with chipotle chili powder and topped with pepper jack cheese slices and yummy Grillo's Pickles®.

Ingredients:

- 1 pound Ground Beef (96% lean)
- 8 Kings Hawaiian slider buns, split, divided
- 1/4 cup dry bread crumbs
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/2 teaspoon ground chipotle chili powder
- 2 slices pepper Jack cheese, cut in quarters
- 1/4 cup Grillo's Pickles® Classic Dill Chips

Toppings:

- Barbecue sauce, lettuce, tomato slices, pickles (optional)

Cooking:

1. Combine Ground Beef, bread crumbs, garlic and chili powder in medium bowl, mixing lightly but thoroughly. Lightly shape into eight 1/2-inch thick mini patties.

Cook's Tip: One-half teaspoon chili powder may be substituted for chipotle chili powder.

2. Place patties on grill over medium, ash-covered coals. Grill, covered, 8 to 9 minutes (over medium heat on preheated gas grill, 9 to 10 minutes) until instant-read thermometer inserted horizontally into center registers 160°F, turning occasionally. Evenly top with cheese during last minute of grilling.

Cook's Tip: Cooking times are for fresh or thoroughly thawed Ground Beef. Color is not a reliable indicator of Ground Beef doneness.

3. Place burgers on bottoms of buns. Top with pickles and desired Toppings. Close sandwiches.



May Monthly Tips

- Seed warm season annual grasses once soil temperature reaches 60 F.
- Clip, graze or make hay to prevent seedhead formation in cool season pastures.
- Rotate cool season pastures when residual is 3-4 inches.
- Consider temporary electric fencing to subdivide larger pastures and exclude areas for mechanical harvesting.
- Scout pastures for summer annual weeds and control when small.



Use offsets on existing fencing. A good way to protect new fencing or enhance existing fencing is to use an offset strand of electrified fencing. Installing a single strand of electric fence on the perimeter of pastures allows graziers to quickly and easily subdivide existing pastures with polywire and step in posts. There are several different styles of offsets including wire, plastic, pigtail, and fiberglass. All styles can work, but it is important that any plastic or fiberglass materials are UV stabilized and come with a warranty.



Even the best grazing systems will have the need for supplemental feed. Make first cuttings in May when forage crops are in the early bloom for legumes and boot to early head stage for grasses. This results in higher forage quality and optimizes the chance for aftermath hay crops. Store cuttings separately to facilitate forage testing and feeding.

Photo by Jimmy Henning



- Webinar Event -

**LIVING WITH
ALPHA-GAL
SYNDROME**

Learn more about AGS (red meat allergy) and how to reduce your risk with University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension.

Thursday, May 29

7:00-8:30pm EDT

At Mercer County Extension Office

RSVP by May 22 to 859-734-4378

**Tick kits will be available.
Sample AGS friendly recipes!**



Topics Covered:

- AGS basics
- Tick bite prevention
- Diet & lifestyle management
- Q/A session

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