

Mercer County Extension Office
1007 Lexington Road
Harrodsburg, KY 40330

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Agriculture Natural Resources Newsletter September, 2025

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



Linda McClanahan
Mercer County Extension Agent for ANR

Did you know...

Out of all 12 months of the year, September is spelled with the most letters. It contains nine letters, and it happens to be the ninth month of the year. No other months have the same amount of letters as their number in the calendar year.

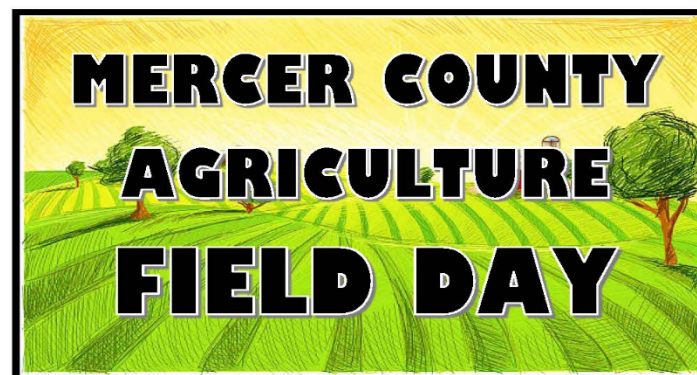
September 1	Labor Day, Extension Office Closed
September 4	Mercer County Agriculture Field Day, Unity Farms
September 4	Fort Harrod Backcountry Horsemen Meeting, 6 PM
September 8	Feeder Calf Grading School, Bluegrass Stockyards, Lexington
September 9	4-H/FFA Youth Investment Livestock Sale, The Stable
September 11	Mercer County Agriculture Field Day rain date
September 14-20	All in for Ag Education Week
September 16	Horses & Horsemen: Farm & Facilities Expo, Big Creek Livestock, 5 PM
September 16	4-H/FFA Youth Investment Ham Sale, The Stable
September 20	UK Beef Bash, C Oran Little Research Farm, Versailles
September 20-21	Shaker Village Harvest Fest 10 AM – 4 PM
September 25	Beef Quality & Care Assurance Training, 10am or 6pm
September 26	Southern States Customer Appreciation Day, 11 AM-2 PM
October 2	Fort Harrod Backcountry Horsemen Meeting, 7 PM
October 4	Harvest, Home & Table Fair
October 21	Kentucky Beef Conference, Fayette County Extension Office
October 23	Mercer County Cattlemen's Association Annual Meeting, 6:30 PM
October 24	Shaker Village Trick or Treat, 4:30-7:00pm
October 26-November 1	UK One Health Week
October 28	Grazing School, Clark County Extension Office
October 29	Advanced Grazing School, Mercer County Extension Office

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

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of 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. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating. Lexington, KY 40506



Thursday, September 4

Unity Farms

943 Unity Pike, Harrodsburg

5:00 PM—Registration begins

5:00 PM—Visit Vendor Area

5:30 PM—Program and Tour begin

**Free sponsored meal prepared by
Mercer County Cattlemen's Association**

**Rain Date – September 11th*

SPEAKERS

Forage Options for Rotational Grazing

Dr. Chris Teutsch, UK Extension Forage Specialist

Mobile Shade and Water Options

Dr. Steve Higgins, UK Director of Environmental

Compliance for the Agricultural Experiment Station

Keys to Intensive Grazing Success

Nathan Hahn, Unity Farms Owner

Cattle Handling & Safety

Jake Harrod, KBN Program Coordinator

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We invite all farmers (full, part time & hobby), agriculture businesses, and anyone with an interest in agricultural production to come out and take part in this educational field day.

This will meet the CAIP educational requirement.

Enjoy some shade, cool drinks, & good food for all. In addition, several agricultural businesses will have displays in the vendor area.

For more information, contact:

Mercer County Farm Bureau
859-734-4341

Mercer Co Conservation District
859-734-4326 Ext 3

Mercer Co Extension Service
859-734-4378

RSVP

Please call 859-734-4378
to register

by September 2nd.

It is important that we know how
many are planning to attend.
THANK YOU!

Field Day Sponsors

Mercer County Farm Bureau Federation
Mercer County Conservation District
Mercer County Cooperative Extension Service
Central KY Ag Credit
Farm Credit Mid-America

2025 Horses & Horsemen: Farm & Facilities Expo

Tuesday, September 16th

RSVP to Bourbon County Extension Office: 859-987-1895

Schedule:

5:00: Registration and Trade Fair
6:00: Dinner
6:15: Welcome & Farm Overview

Arena footing and maintenance - Dr. Coleman, UK Equine Extension Specialist

Pasture Walk —Central KY ANR Agents

Heavy Use Areas & Farm Infrastructure— Dr. Bob Coleman

Horsemanship Demo - Mike & Chris Stokley

Location:
Mike & Chris Stokley
Big Creek Livestock
1310 Thatchers Mill Rd
Paris, KY 40361

University of Kentucky
Ag Equine Programs
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

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FEEDER CALF GRADING SCHOOL

Join us for an engaging feeder calf program where you will gain experience in grading and evaluating feeder calves. Learn key strategies to improve your marketing success and maximize profits.



REGISTER NOW

September 8th

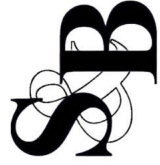
6:00pm at Bluegrass Stockyards
Please RSVP by Friday August 29th
FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RSVP



Call your county
Extension Office



4561 Iron Works Pike,
Lexington, KY 40511



Event sponsor: CATTLE CO.

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We will examine
three soil pits
with distinctly different
profile properties to discuss
how they will influence water
and nutrient retention and delivery

Key topics include:

- Plant available water
- Soil texture
- Nutrient profile



CCA Credits: 5.5 CEUs

For questions contact Lori Rogers
lori.rogers@uky.edu 270-365-7541 ext 21317

Pre-registration is required at
KATSSoilPropertiesRichmond2025.eventbrite.com
Cost \$105
Lunch provided



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SOIL PROPERTIES WORKSHOP

SEPT 16, 2025
8:30 AM-3 PM EST

Eastern Kentucky University
Meadowbrook Farm
485 Whitt Road
Richmond, KY
40475



KENTUCKY SELLING FARMER TAX CREDIT ENCOURAGES CONTINUED USE OF AGRICULTURAL LAND FOR FARMING

The Kentucky Selling Farmer Tax Credit program grants tax credits to selling farmers who agree to sell agricultural land and assets to beginning farmers or actively engaged farmers who commit to keep farmland in agricultural production.

Farmers wanting to sell agricultural land and assets may be eligible for a Kentucky income tax credit up to 5% of the purchase price of qualifying agricultural assets, subject to calendar year and lifetime credit caps.

- Sales to beginning farmers may qualify for enhanced tax credit incentives.
- Sales involving immediate family members do not qualify for tax credit consideration.

Prior to completing a sale of agricultural assets, applicants should review the Kentucky Selling Farmer Tax Credit Guidelines for more detailed program information and eligibility requirements.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Visit

[newkentuckyhome.ky.gov/
Entrepreneurship/KSFTC](http://newkentuckyhome.ky.gov/Entrepreneurship/KSFTC)

for complete details.

For more information or other assistance for small businesses in Kentucky, please visit [newkentuckyhome.ky.gov/
entrepreneurship](http://newkentuckyhome.ky.gov/entrepreneurship).

email cedsbscd@ky.gov or call 800-626-2930.

UP TO
\$50K
IN TAX CREDITS
PER CALENDAR
YEAR



The Cabinet's services, assistance, and activities are available to all without regard to race/ethnic gender or national origin.

**TEAM
KENTUCKY**
CABINET FOR
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Home

Hay Testing Even More Important in 2025

Dr. Chris Teutsch, UK Research and Education Center at Princeton

In many parts of Kentucky first cutting hay was delayed. Although yields were good, forage quality is another story. As the grass plant reaches maturity (gets mature seed) yield goes up, but quality decreases (Figure 1). This year we were on the right side of this figure, good yield but lower quality. We have already got our hay testing results back from the lab for our first cutting and that is exactly what they show (Table 1). I wish we could have been more timely in our hay harvest this spring but weather conditions were just not conducive to dry hay harvest. In fact, weather records indicate that we are seeing a trend toward fewer baling days in May (baling day = 3 curing days + 1 harvest day). It is just getting tougher to be timely with our first cutting harvested as dry hay. So, the question becomes, what do we do? The list of practical solutions is short; in fact, there is really one viable alternative and that is baleage. High quality baleage can be made with a curing window as short as 2 days (one day to mow and wilt and a second day to bale and wrap). This provides more opportunities to harvest at the correct stage of maturity (late boot to early head).

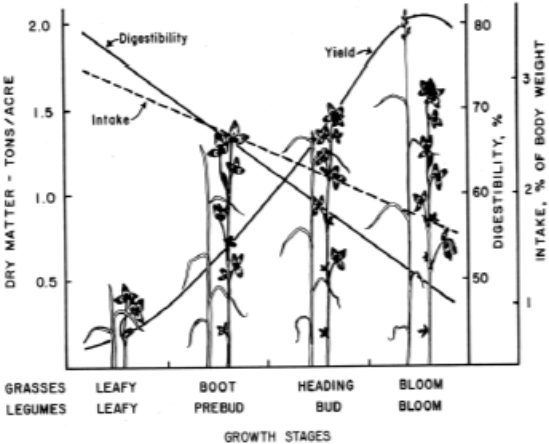


Figure 1. As plant maturity increases, yield increases and forage quality (digestibility and crude protein) decreases. The single most important factor impacting forage quality is stage of maturity at harvest.

Field	CP [†]	ADF	NDF	TDN	Meet CP Requirements		Meet TDN Requirements	
	%	%	%	%	Dry	Lactating	Dry	Lactating
1	8.9	40.1	59.1	55.5	yes	no	yes	no
2	9.9	39.4	60.0	56.2	yes	no	yes	no
3	8.2	41.6	67.2	53.8	yes	no	yes	no
4	10.6	41.0	64.5	54.5	yes	yes	yes	no
5	8.3	40.7	65.6	54.8	yes	no	yes	no
Avg	9.2	40.6	63.3	55.0	yes	no	yes	no

Table 1. Forage quality of 2025 first harvest hay at UK Research and Education Center in Princeton. [†]CP, crude protein, ADF, acid detergent fiber, NDF, neutral detergent fiber, TDN, total digestible nutrients.

Hay Testing Even More Important in Wet Years

In years like this one, hay testing becomes even more important. Since most of Kentucky’s first cutting hay was put up at an advanced stage of maturity, testing is going to be a critical part of making sure that we meet the nutrient requirements of our cows this winter. The single most important factor impacting rebreeding in cow herds is body condition at calving. To design an effective supplementation program for our lower quality hay, we must know what the quality is. If you have never tested your hay, this is the year to start!

FORAGE MANAGEMENT TIPS

✓ Test first cutting hay and use the results to develop a supplementation strategy for this winter.
✓ Graze summer annuals pastures and fertilize with 40-60 lb N/A if regrowth is desired.
✓ Identify pastures to stockpile for winter grazing. Pastures should be well drained and have a strong sod. Limit summer grazing so that they are ready to grow as conditions cool and rain comes in late summer.
✓ Do NOT mow hayfields or graze pastures closer than 4-5 inches.
✓ Soil test pastures to determine nutrient needs.
✓ Use UKY variety testing results to select varieties that will be planted in the fall.
✓ If drought occurs, confine animals to one pasture and feed hay.

Wildfires in Kentucky

By Simone Lewis - National Weather Service Charleston, WV



When most people think of wildfires, images of raging fires in the western United States often come to mind. But did you know that wildfires also occur in Kentucky? In fact, the state of Kentucky averages over 1,400 wildfires a year. Most of these are caused by humans, with arson the leading cause. However, many are also accidental, the result of sparks from outdoor equipment, or embers escaping from burning debris. In this article, we will examine Kentucky’s fire seasons and the weather conditions that lead to an enhanced risk of wildfires, and get acquainted with some of the products that the National Weather Service issues to alert the public and land managers of adverse fire weather conditions.

The state of Kentucky has two wildfire seasons: one in the spring (February 15th to April 30th), and another in the fall (October 1st to December 15th). During these two seasons, the combination of dead or dying vegetation (often referred to as “fuels”), combined with often dry (low relative humidity) and windy weather, create a perfect storm for the spread of wildfires. In addition, the lack of a significant leaf canopy allows the sunlight to penetrate the forest floor easier, leading to increased drying of the already dead or dying vegetation (especially fuels that are susceptible to drying quickly such as leaves and grasses). Both seasons often see a lack of significant rainfall (particularly the fall), which can lead to an increase in the susceptibility of vegetation to burn, particularly if drought conditions were already in place.

The NWS issues a variety of products to assist with wildfire management, including routine fire weather forecasts that highlight the development of adverse fire weather conditions, fire weather watches and warnings, site specific “spot” forecasts that can be used for prescribed burns and active suppression efforts, and even on-site meteorologist support in the case of larger incidents. Many NWS offices also have dedicated fire weather pages that anyone can access. Information often found on these pages includes, but is not limited to, a daily fire weather forecast and discussion, fire weather outlook maps, and links displaying the current and forecast fire danger for your area.

Understanding the products the NWS issues to highlight adverse fire weather is imperative to stop the ignition and spread of wildfires. When favorable fire weather conditions are forecast, the NWS will often issue fire weather watches or red flag warnings to alert land managers, and the public of the risk of wildfires. A fire weather watch is issued generally 24-72 hours in advance to alert of the potential for dangerous fire weather conditions to develop. Whereas a red flag warning means that dangerous fire weather conditions are ongoing or expected to develop shortly (generally within 24 hours of issuance). Whether you are under a fire weather watch or red flag warning, caution should be used when dealing with anything that could start a wildfire, and open burning of any type should be avoided. In addition to these products, the NWS will also often issue air quality alerts, in coordination with environmental agencies, when unhealthy levels of air pollution are expected from wildfire smoke.

Lastly, in addition to staying informed of the latest fire weather forecast and conditions in your area, there are other things that you can do to help mitigate the threat of wildfires. These include clearing dead vegetation from your property, adhering to local burn bans and laws, and avoiding burning on days when the wildfire threat is high. If you do choose to burn, do not leave a fire unattended, and have a water source nearby should your fire escape. Lastly, call 911 if you see a wildfire or a fire you are attending to gets out of control. By staying informed of the weather conditions, and practicing common sense safety measures, you can help keep Kentucky safe and beautiful, for yourself and your fellow Kentuckians.



MERCER COUNTY YOUTH INVESTMENT SALES




Livestock Sale
Tuesday, September 9, 2025
Mercer County Fairgrounds "The Stable"
 Linden Avenue, Harrodsburg, KY
 Preview & meet youth @ 6:00
 Complimentary Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
 Auction & Donor Recognition at 7:15 p.m.
2025 Sale Includes
 7 Market Hogs
 2 Market Goats
 1 Steer

Country Ham Sale
Tuesday, September 16, 2025
Mercer County Fairgrounds "The Stable"
 Linden Avenue, Harrodsburg, KY
 Preview & meet youth @ 6:00
 Complimentary Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
 Auction & Donor Recognition at 7:15 p.m.
2025 Sale Includes
 47 Country Hams



BQCA Trainings
Thursday, September 25th, 10am OR 6pm
Mercer County Extension Office
RSVP required by calling 859-734-4378



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 well-being, while also training on the core principles of BQCA.

Fall
HARVEST FESTIVAL
 AT SHAKER VILLAGE
SEPTEMBER 20-21

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

 Work fun interactive game stations and assist with other booths.

Festival will run from 10:00am - 4:00pm
 Volunteer times are 3 hour slots

Scan QR code or go to link to sign up!
 tinyurl.com/harvestfest2025ky

Mercer County Cooperative Extension
 859-734-4378




BEEF BASH
Save the Date

SEPTEMBER 20, 2025
9:00 AM - 3:30 PM
C. ORAN LITTLE RESEARCH FARM

Register: <https://afs.ca.uky.edu/events/beef-bash>

 Cooperative Extension Service



Triple Berry Crisp


Cooking spray	3 tablespoons white sugar	¾ teaspoon cinnamon
1¾ cup fresh blackberries	¾ cup brown sugar	½ teaspoon nutmeg
1¾ cup fresh blueberries	½ cup flour	½ cup butter
1¾ cup fresh strawberries	½ cup oats	

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Spray the bottom and sides of an 8-by-8 inch baking pan with nonstick cooking spray. **Wash** berries. Do not let berries soak in water. Hull strawberries by removing the stems and green tops. **Place** blueberries, blackberries and strawberries in a mixing bowl. **Sprinkle** berries with white sugar and **stir**. **Set** aside. In a separate, large bowl, **mix** the brown sugar, flour, oats, cinnamon and nutmeg. **Cut** in the butter until crumbly.

Pour berry mixture into baking pan. **Sprinkle** crumbly mixture over the berries. **Bake** for 30 minutes or until the top is golden brown.

Yield: 12, ½ cup servings

Nutritional Analysis: 160 calories, 6 g fat, 3.5 g saturated fat, 15 mg cholesterol, 0 mg sodium, 27 g carbohydrate, 3 g fiber, 19 g sugars, 2 g protein



Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers' market, or roadside stand.