

Agriculture Natural Resources Newsletter APRIL, 2023

UK University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

Cooperative Extension Service
Mercer County
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Linda McClanahan

Linda McClanahan, Mercer County Agent
for Agriculture & Natural Resources



BQCA Trainings

April 3rd at 6pm, or April 13th at 10am

Mercer County Extension Office, RSVP required



KENTUCKY
BEEF QUALITY & CARE
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 well-being, while also training on the core principles of BQA.

Farm Credit Mid-America Homesteaders Farm Tour Action Jackson Friday, April 21, \$10.00 - \$25.00

Explore the diversity of Kentucky farms all season long. With support from Presenting Sponsor, Farm Credit Mid-America, Black Soil KY returns for its 6th annual season of Farm Tours. On Friday, April 21, you are invited to visit Action Jackson, a family owned and operated farm in Mercer County. Guests will enjoy:

- boxed meal
- group transportation (all guests must utilize group transportation)
- presentations from the host farmer, Farm Credit Mid-America
- farmer led tour, Q & A, Opportunities for networking

Guests may park their vehicle in the Greyline Station parking lot adjacent to the Black Soil KY Fulfillment Center.

4:00- guest check in and registration at Black Soil KY Fulfillment Center

4:15pm- departure for Mercer County

5:00pm: Dinner program with presentations at Mercer County Extension Office

6:15pm- depart for Action Jackson Farm

7:45pm- depart for the Black Soil KY Fulfillment Center

8:30pm- Event dismissal, conclusion

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

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, or physical or mental disability. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.
LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

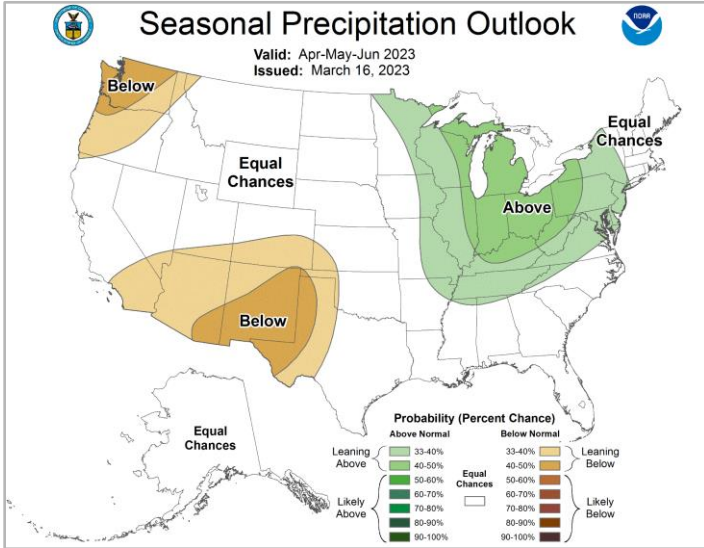
Spring Outlook for the State of Kentucky

By Simone Lewis - National Weather Service Charleston, WV

The Official Spring Outlook (April - June) for the state of Kentucky was released from the Climate Prediction Center on March 16th, 2023.

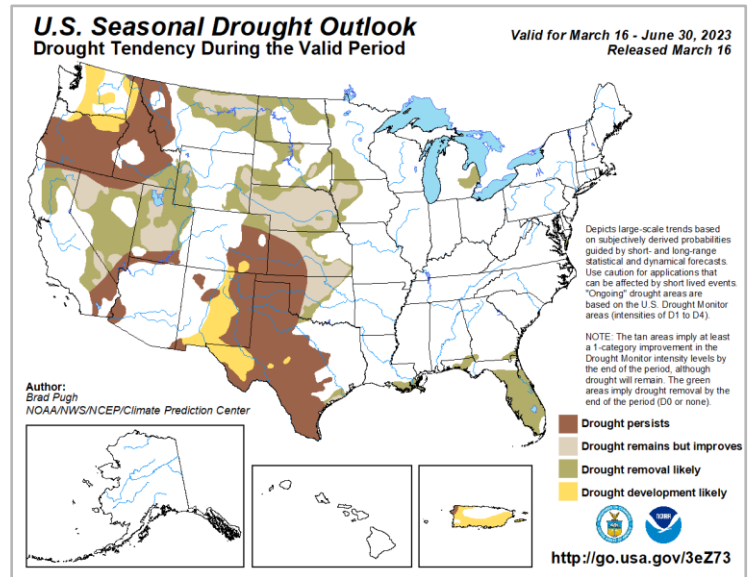
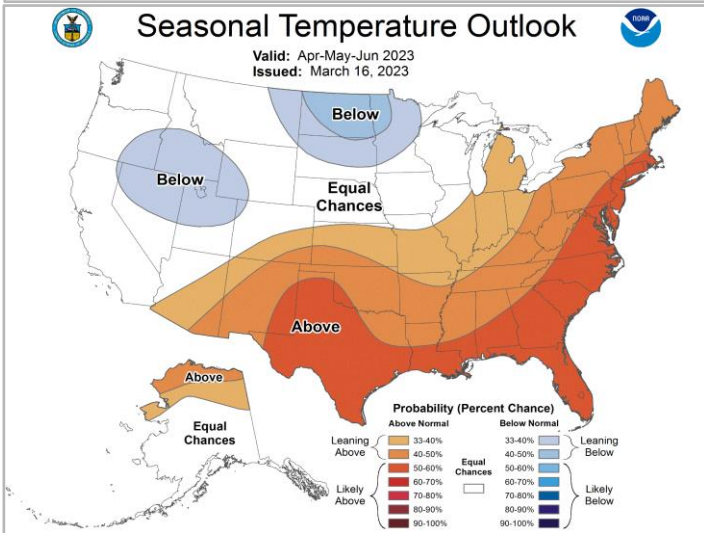
Keep in mind, the colors on the graphics reflect a numbered "probability", or percent chance, of above or below normal values. It does NOT mean that the darker the color the more above normal or below normal we will be, but rather a better probability (or chance) of being above or below normal. Also, this is an average across a three month period, which means there could still be periods of warmer/colder than normal temperatures or above/below normal precipitation.

Here are the spring precipitation and temperature outlooks for the state of Kentucky:

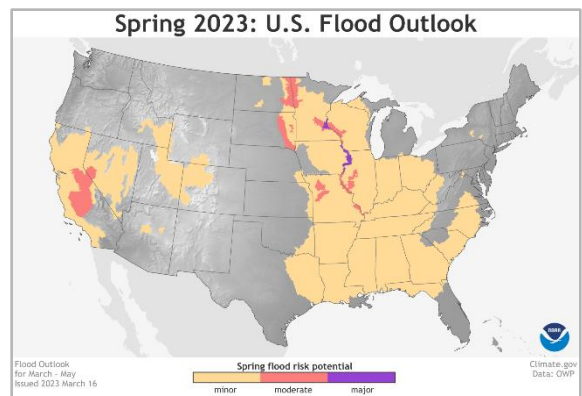


According to the images, the state of Kentucky has a 40% to 50% chance of above normal precipitation across the northern half of the state, and a 33% to 40% chance of above normal precipitation across the southern half.

The state of Kentucky is also predicted to have a 40% to 50% of above normal temperatures across the eastern half of the state, and 33% to 40% chance across the western portions of the state.



In addition, drought is not expected to develop across the state, but there is at least a 50% chance of minor flooding during the spring season.





April is Kentucky Goat Month!
 We will spend the month celebrating the versatile aspects of the KY goat industry. Goats provide mohair, meat, milk, and forage control.

Did you know?

- There are 4,000 Kentucky farmers who raise goats as part of their livestock operations.
- Annually, the state's goat industry adds over \$3.5 million in revenue to Kentucky's agricultural receipts
- Kentucky ranks 7th nationally for goat inventory, totaling 56,000 head in January 2023
- Market goat numbers increased for 2023, up 3.7% from 2022

KGPA and the Fort Harrod Goat Association are excited to bring the 2023 Goat Field Day!

Date: April 29, 2023

Location: Boyle County Extension Office, 99 Corporate Drive, Danville

Time: Check-in 9:30am, program starts at 10am EST

Fee: \$10/person covers all materials and lunch

Registration: <https://www.kysheepandgoat.org/product-page/kgpa-fort-harrold-field-day>

USDA Announces Conservation Reserve Program Signup for 2023

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that agricultural producers and private landowners can begin applying for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) General signup starting **February 27 through April 7, 2023**. CRP is a cornerstone voluntary conservation program offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and a key tool in the Biden-Harris administration's effort to address climate change and help agricultural communities invest in the long-term well-being of their land and natural resources.

"The Conservation Reserve Program is one of the largest private lands conservation programs in the United States, offering a range of conservation options to farmers and landowners," said Dean Schamore, FSA State Executive Director in Kentucky. "CRP has and continues to be a great fit for farmers with less productive or marginal cropland, helping them re-establish valuable land cover to help improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and support wildlife habitat. Under this administration, we have made several updates to the program to increase producer interest and enrollment, strengthen the climate benefits of the program and help ensure underserved producers can find a pathway to entry into CRP."

Landowners and producers interested in CRP should contact their local USDA Service Center to learn more or to apply for the program before their deadlines.

Mercer County's USDA Service Center is located at 225 Morris Drive, 859-734-4326.

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.

KENTUCKY SOYBEAN PLANTING RECOMMENDATIONS

Connor Raymond and Carrie Knott, University of Kentucky Extension Grain Crops

After experiencing the warmest winter on record for most of the state, producers are gearing up for planting season. With above average soil temperatures some may even be tempted to plant earlier than usual. Regardless, it is always good to refresh with the fundamentals of soybean planting in Kentucky.

Planting Date and Soil Temperature

To achieve maximum yield of a full-season soybean crop the recommended planting date for Western Kentucky is mid-April through early May and by mid-May in Central Kentucky, but soil temperatures need to be warm enough before starting. Soil temperatures 2 inches below the ground need to reach and **sustain** at least 50°F, and there also needs to be no risk for a killing freeze. Cool, wet soil conditions can result in delayed emergence as well as slower germination. Seed vigor is important to know when planting in cool, wet conditions. Vigor ratings are not on most seed labels but can easily be obtained by asking the seed dealer or submitting a sample to **UK regulatory services**.

Seed Treatment and Pest Management

If soybeans are planted into cooler soil conditions, precautions such as fungicide and insecticide seed treatments should also be considered. Fields with a history of Sudden Death Syndrome (SDS) can still be planted early, however, specific seed treatment products that have efficacy against SDS and highly resistant varieties should be considered. Insect pressure can also cause stand losses. Bean leaf beetle damage can be easily identified by pitting of the cotyledons after emergence. An insecticide seed treatment should also be considered, especially if an early planting date is attempted.

Planting Depth, Seeding Rate and Inoculant

The recommended harvest population of soybean plants is 100,000 plants/acre. With all factors being considered such as germination rate, stand losses from insects, seedling diseases, and cool soil conditions, seeding rate should reflect the expected losses to these factors. Soybeans should be planted between 1 and 2 inches deep in the soil. If seeding depth is deeper, the risk increases for the seed not emerging from ground. Fields that have been overly wet through the winter or have not had a recent history of soybean planting, 3 to 5 years, should be inoculated when planting. Additional information is available in UK extension publication ID: 249: Soybean Management in Kentucky and AGR-130.

Recipe



Blueberry French Toast Bake

¼ cup whole wheat flour	3 eggs	1 cup fresh blueberries
¼ cup all-purpose flour	6 egg whites	½ cup chopped almonds
1½ cups skim milk	1 loaf (12 ounces) French bread, cut into 1 inch cubes	Honey, if desired
1 tablespoon sugar	3 ounces fat free cream cheese, cut into ½ inch cubes	
½ teaspoon vanilla		
¼ teaspoon salt		

Generously **grease** a 13x9x2-inch baking dish. **Beat** flours, milk, sugar, vanilla, salt, eggs and egg whites in a large mixing bowl with a hand mixer until smooth. **Stir** in bread cubes until they are coated. **Pour** bread mixture into baking dish. **Top** evenly with cream cheese, blueberries and almonds. **Cover** and **refrigerate** for at least 1 hour, but no longer than 24

hours. **Heat** oven to 400 degrees F. **Uncover** and **bake** 20-25 minutes or until golden brown. **Sprinkle** with honey, if desired.

Yield: 8, 1 cup servings

Nutritional Analysis: 420 calories, 6 g fat, 1 g saturated fat, 70 mg cholesterol, 860 mg sodium, 69 g carbohydrate, 4 g fiber, 9 g sugar.



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

**Organized and Sponsored by the Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council,
UK Cooperative Extension Service, and the Master Grazer Program**

This program is designed for producers and agricultural professionals to learn the newest fencing methods and sound fencing construction through a combination of classroom and hands-on learning

WHEN: April 11-Scottsville, KY
April 13-Richmond, KY

WHERE: Allen County Extension Office
200 E Main St
Scottsville, KY 42164

SMK Agricultural Venue
401 Brookstown Rd
Richmond, KY 40475



COST: \$35/participant -- includes notebook, refreshments, safety glasses, hearing protection, and catered lunch

Registration DEADLINE: 2 weeks prior to workshop

ONLINE Registration with Credit Card:

_____ Scottsville, KY https://2023_Scottsville_KY_Fencing_School.eventbrite.com
 _____ Richmond, KY https://2023_Richmond_KY_Fencing_School.eventbrite.com



Registration by U.S. Mail: Christi Forsythe
348 University Drive
Princeton, KY 42445

Name: _____
 Street: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____
 Email: _____ Cell Phone: _____



Number of participants _____ x \$35 per participant = _____ **Total Cost**

Make CHECKS payable to: KFGC



For more information contact Krista Lea at 270-625-0712 or Christi.Forsythe@uky.edu

2023 Kentucky Fencing Schools



University of Kentucky
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1007 Lexington Road
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

- April 3 BQCA Training, 6pm
- April 6 Fort Harrod Backcountry Horsemen Meeting, 7pm
- April 8 Shaker Village Easter Egg Hunt, 10am-2pm, Mercer Cattlemen's concessions
- April 13 BQCA Training, 10am
- April 13 Fencing School, Richmond
- April 18 Fort Harrod Goat Association Meeting, 6:30pm
- April 22 Earth Day
- April 29 Goat Field Day, Boyle County Extension Office, 10am

- May 4 Fort Harrod Backcountry Horsemen Meeting, 7 PM
- May 14-19 International Forage & Grassland Congress, Covington
- May 20 Mercer County Dairy Breakfast
- May 25 Mercer County Cattlemen's Association Scholarship Deadline
- May 29 Extension Office Closed, Memorial Day

