

# Agriculture Natural Resources Newsletter April, 2025



*Linda McClanahan*

Linda McClanahan  
Mercer County Extension Agent for ANR

**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.



**BQCA Trainings**

**Thursday, April 10, 10am OR 6pm**

**Mercer County Extension Office RSVP required**

**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.

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



## The Shred Truck

**Monday, April 21  
1:00-4:00pm**



In observance of Earth Day, Mercer County Extension Office will have **"The Shred Truck"** available for free to you!

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



**1007 Lexington 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 questions 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.
- \* 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 allow growth to accumulate for hay or haylage.
- \* 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. Wires going under gates should be buried to a depth of approximately one foot.

**SHEEP & GOAT**  
Educational Meeting &  
Lamb Dinner  
Monday, April 7

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-Gaitton 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 register by calling 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.

### Carrot Cake Smoothie

- 1 medium frozen ripe banana
- 2 medium carrots, chopped
- 1/2 cup canned-in-juice pineapple tidbits, drained
- 1/4 cup low-fat vanilla yogurt
- 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, 0g 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, 15% DV potassium.

Plate it up!