

Agriculture Natural Resources Newsletter February, 2025



Cooperative Extension Service
Mercer County
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Linda McClanahan

Linda McClanahan
Mercer County Extension Agent for ANR

Did you know?

February is the only month where it's possible to go the entire time without having a full moon.



NUISANCE WEED SPRAYING PROGRAM

NOTE: The registration period for this program is the month of February, and all registration must be done online at <http://www.kyagr.com/consumer/nuisance-weed-spraying-program-application.aspx>.

This program consists of weed spraying demonstration plots. The department will provide the sprayer and enough chemical for the treatment of 10 acres of agricultural land or 100 gallons of spot spraying mix to be used on agricultural land. The department's representative will demonstrate proper mixing and application techniques. A number of nuisance weeds can be treated under this program depending on the needs of the participant. This program is limited to broadleaf weeds.

Broadcast Spraying demonstration plots consist of:

- 10 acres of agricultural land will be treated with chemical provided by the department
- Application is performed with a two-wheeled trailer type sprayer equipped with boomless nozzles.
- If additional chemical is provided by the participant, an additional 10 acres can be treated.

Spot Spraying demonstration plots consist of:

- 100 gallons of broadleaf chemical mix which is applied until sprayer is empty.
- Application is performed with a two-wheeled trailer type sprayer equipped with a handheld spray wand used by the tractor operator.
- If additional chemical is provided by the participant, an additional 100 gallons can be sprayed

For each demonstration:

- The participant must provide water source.
- The participant must provide tractor and operator.
- All chemical products must be labeled and the product label will be strictly followed
- A maximum of 7 participants per county.

This program is designed to target weeds that have a negative impact on the participant's agricultural production. There will be an annual online application period to participate in this program. **Applications can be completed from February 1st to February 28th.** To submit an application, please go to <http://www.kyagr.com/consumer/nuisance-weed-spraying-program-application.aspx>

February 4	Mercer Co Fair Livestock Show Committee Meetings
February 6	Fort Harrod Backcountry Horsemen Meeting, 7 PM
February 7	Harrodsburg Rotary Club Pancake Day, 7am-6pm
February 12-15	National Farm Machinery Show, Louisville
February 13	UK Beef Management Webinar, 8pm
February 17	Area Backgrounder Meeting, Boyle County Extension Office, 6 PM
February 18	Mid South Stocker Conference Stocker Zoom Meeting, 8 PM
February 24	Mid South Stocker Conference Heifer Development Zoom Meeting, 8 PM
February 20	Cattle Management Meeting, Mercer County Extension Office, 6:30 PM
February 22	Mercer County Fair & Horse Show Fundraiser, The Stable
February 24	Mercer County Extension Council Leadership Appreciation Luncheon, Noon
February 25	KY Alfalfa & Stored Forages Conference, Fayette County Extension, 8 AM
February 27	Pastures Please! Meeting, Fayette County Extension Office, 5:30 PM
March 6	Fort Harrod Backcountry Horsemen Meeting, 7 PM
March 7	Mercer Co Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting, Lodge @ Logan Vineyards
March 13	Area Tobacco Meeting, Garrard County Extension Office, 6 PM
March 14-15	KY Farm Bureau Women's Leadership Conference, Covington
March 17-21	National Agriculture Week
March 18	Mercer County Farm-City Dinner, 6 PM
March 20	Lions Club Spaghetti Dinner, 11 AM-7 PM
March 24-28	UK Agriculture Week



AREA BACKGROUNDERS MEETING



This meeting qualifies for
CAIP Educational requirement.

Call your county office by
February 14 for meal reservations.

Boyle—859-236-4484

Lincoln—606-365-2447

Garrard—859-792-3026

Mercer—859-734-4378

February 17
6:00 PM

Boyle County Extension Office
99 Corporate Drive—Danville, KY
40422

Meal begins at 6:00pm

6:30pm:

Parasite Control, Receiving Protocol

Dr. Michelle Arnold, UK Extension
Ruminant Veterinarian

7:15pm:

Risk Management

Dr. Kenny Burdine, UK Extension
Livestock Economist

KENTUCKY  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

**Cooperative
Extension Service**

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MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.
Lexington, KY 40506



2025 Alfalfa and Stored Forage Conference
February 25, 2025 - Lexington, KY



2025 KY Alfalfa and Stored Forage Conference

“Alfalfa Updates and Producing Grass Hay for Premium Markets”

When: February 25, 2025 from 8:00 to 3:30EST (7 to 2:15CST)

Where: Fayette County Extension Office

1140 Harry Sykes Way
Lexington, KY 40504

Registration: General \$45; Students \$15 (Sponsorship: \$250 and \$500)

Register online at <https://KYAlfalfa2025.eventbrite.com> or

mail a check payable to KFGC to:

Krista Lea, N222 Agriculture North, Univ. of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546-0091

8:00 Registration, sponsors, and silent auction

8:45 **Welcome and program highlights** - Dr. Ray Smith, University of Kentucky

9:00 **Everything I Ever Needed to Know about Armyworms** – Dr. Raul Villanueva, Univ. of KY

9:45 **Armyworm Control Methods: What to spray and when** – Brett Reese, So. States, Paris

10:15 Break, visit with sponsors, and silent auction

10:45 **What’s New in Alfalfa Varieties** - Dr. Don Miller, Mt. View Seeds, Commercial alfalfa breeder for over 45 years.

11:30 **What do Horse Owners Want and Why** - Dr. Bob Coleman, UK Horse Specialist

12:00 Lunch, Alfalfa Awards, KCA Hay Quality awards, and silent auction winners

12:45 **Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council update** – Cody Rakes, KFGC President

1:00 **What We Can Learn from the Results of the KY Hay Contests** – Dr. Chris Teutsch, Univ. of KY

1:30 **Emerging Markets for Unique Forage Species** – Dr. Ray Smith, University of Kentucky

2:00 **Producer Panel: How I Produce Quality Grass Hay** – (Panelists – Brad Hines, Hart Co.- Timothy; Kevin Priddy, Grayson Co. – Orchardgrass; Allen Arthur, Nicholas Co. - Teff hay; and Central KY producer – fescue and mixed grass hay) *Each producer will take 10-12 minutes to explain the basics of how they produce quality grass hay including establishment, fertilizing, harvesting and marketing; And then open the floor to questions)*

3:00 **Take-Home Lessons from Today’s Meeting** - Dr. Ray Smith, Univ. of KY

3:15 Survey, pick up silent auction items

3:30 Adjourn



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

Thurs., Feb. 20th 6:00 PM @ Extension Office

Join us for our next 2025 educational meeting!

CATTLE MANAGEMENT MEETING

Manure and Body Condition Scoring for Managing Cattle Nutrition

Micah Thomas, Purina Animal Nutrition
Livestock Production Specialist



*This class qualifies for KADF CAIP
Educational credit for the cost
share program.*

Cattle Handling & Facilities

Dr. Josh Jackson, UK Livestock Engineering
Extension Specialist

FREE Steak Dinner Provided By:



Pay dues/renew your membership
to be entered in special drawing!

If you plan to attend, please
call the extension office 859-
734-4378 by **Monday, Feb 17th**
to RSVP.

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LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Winter and Early Spring River Flooding

Jane Marie Wix – National Weather Service Jackson, KY

Dean Acheson, a politician and lawyer, once said, “You can’t argue with a river - it is going to flow. You can dam it up, put it to useful purposes, you can deflect it, but you can’t argue with it.” The further we head into the winter, rivers seem to become more “argumentative” as they swell and flood. So why do we typically see most of our river flooding in the winter and early spring here in Kentucky?

There are several factors...

1. During the winter months, the lack of vegetation, and the cold and occasionally frozen ground make it unable to absorb as much water. This creates more runoff into area creeks and streams, and eventually into the riverways.
2. The winter also tends to bring more amplified/stronger storm systems, which can result in more widespread significant precipitation. Typically, in the spring and summertime, heavy precipitation associated with thunderstorms is more localized, while in the winter, it can cover vast expanses, leading to more impacts on the rivers.
3. Jam - it isn't just for bread! Ice floating down the river can get backed up and dam up the waterway, known as an ice jam. The water behind the jam will rise and flow out of the banks, leading to areal flooding. Subsequently, the jam will eventually release, sending large chunks of ice and pent-up water down the river, leading to potential flooding and damage downstream. Ice jams typically occur farther north than Kentucky, where rivers are more likely to freeze over.
4. As we head into the early spring months, or even a warm spell after a large winter storm, rising temperatures begin to melt away at the snow and ice on the ground. If too much ice or snow melts at once, this creates a large amount of runoff into the waterways, leading to significant river rises. This gets amplified when heavy rains also fall on top of the melting ice and snow.
5. According to FEMA and the National Inventory of Dams (2007), there are more than 80,000 dams in the United States. Dam failure or levee breaches can occur with little warning. Failures and breaches can be slow, lasting from days to weeks, or can be very abrupt with profound, sudden impacts to locations downstream. Causes of dam failure vary from natural causes such as prolonged rainfall, landslides, earthquakes, or erosion - to human causes such as improper maintenance and design, and negligent operation.

In the last few months, the NWS launched nationwide Flood Inundation Mapping (FIM). These maps are available online and help decision makers, such as Emergency Management, show the extent of inundation at different river stage levels (both static and forecasted). FIM will help to better message the impacts for flooding events, with increasing accuracy and capability moving forward.

February Recipe



Lean Green Lettuce Tacos

8 large lettuce leaves	¾ pound extra lean ground beef	1 tablespoon finely chopped cilantro
1½ cup cooked brown rice	1 small zucchini, chopped	1 teaspoon lime juice
¾ cup fresh corn kernels	1 ounce packet low-sodium taco seasoning	1 tomato, chopped
1 cup canned black beans, drained and rinsed	4 ounces low sodium tomato sauce	1 small red onion, chopped
1 tablespoon olive oil		

Wash and dry lettuce leaves. Prepare rice according package directions. Cut corn off cob. Drain and rinse black beans. In a skillet, heat the oil to medium; add ground beef and begin to cook. When beef begins to brown, add zucchini, corn and black beans to skillet. Continue to cook until vegetables are tender and beef is done. Do not overcook. Add in taco seasoning and tomato sauce and heat through. Add cilantro and lime

juice to the cooked rice. Place equal amounts of rice mixture and taco mixture into lettuce leaves. Top each taco with chopped tomato and onion.
Yield: 8 servings
Nutritional Analysis: 180 calories, 4.5 g fat, 1 g saturated fat, 20 mg cholesterol, 350 mg sodium, 23 g carbohydrate, 4 g fiber, 5 g sugars, 12 g protein.