# Ag & Natural Resources Of Cows and Plows

**COOPERATIVE EXTENSION** 

MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER



Franklin County 101 Lakeview Court Frankfort, KY 40601-8750 (502) 695-9035 Fax: (502) 695-9309 franklin.ca.uky.edu



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# DID YOU EXPERIENCE LIVESTOCK LOSSES (INCLUDING BEES) DUE TO RECENT FLOODS, SNOW OR EXTREME COLD?

If so, contact your FSA Office to see if you are eligible for

### DISASTER ASSISTANCE Livestock Indemnity Program

The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (the 2018 Farm Bill) authorized the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) to provide benefits to eligible livestock owners or contract growers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by eligible loss conditions, including eligible adverse weather, eligible disease and attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal law, including wolves and avian predators. In addition, LIP provides assistance to eligible livestock owners that must sell livestock at a reduced price because of an injury from an eligible loss condition.

LIP is administered by the **U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA)**. The occurrence of an eligible loss condition in and by itself does not determine eligibility for eligible livestock losses. The livestock owner or contract grower must provide evidence acceptable to FSA that the eligible cause of loss not only occurred but directly caused loss or death. <u>https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/</u> disaster-assistance-program/livestock-indemnity University of Kentucky

College of Agriculture, Food & Environment

Extension Plant Pathology

Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment *Cooperative Extension Service* 



Plant Pathology Fact Sheet

PPFS-GEN-26

# Historical Farm Practices & Their Influence on Disease Management

April Lamb Plant Pathology Postdoctoral Scholar Kim Leonberger Plant Pathology Extension Associate Nicole Gauthier Plant Pathology Extension Specialist Jamari Taylor Plant Pathology Undergraduate Student

#### INTRODUCTION

Modern production practices are often based on techniques used by previous generations or that have been part of cultural traditions for many years. These practices can lead to successful crop production, but they can also influence disease development. An understanding of the relationship between historical practices and their effects on disease development can help improve crop yields while preserving culturally significant traditions. The following summary connects historical practices to plant diseases and their management.

**Disclaimer:** This summary focuses on plant diseases. Cultural practices such as those described below can influence plant and soil characteristics, soil fertility, and/ or ecosystems. Consult a horticulturist for information on best practices for crop production.



INTERCROPPING INCREASES PLANT DIVERSITY RESULTING IN REDUCED DISEASE AND PEST RISKS.

Historical Practice	Description & Purpose	Disease Management Impact
Agroforestry	Utilizing the natural landscape to grow crops. Plants are sown within existing forests, reducing labor and increasing biodiversity.	Trees provide shade for crops and prevent large- scale soil erosion. Crops are less stressed, reducing disease and pest risks. Plant diversity prevents monocultured systems that can result in disease epidemics.
Burning	Removal of crop residues and weeds with controlled fires; also replenishes nutrients and reduces pest populations.	Heat from fires can kill disease-causing pathogens and pests on soil surfaces. However, heat may not penetrate depths to reach all soilborne pathogens.

Historical Practice	Description & Purpose	Disease Management Impact
Cover crops	Crops such as sweet clover, red clover, mustards, wheat, or rye are planted at the end of a growing season or between crops to protect soil from erosion and to reintroduce organic matter and nutrients to soil.	Cover crops can improve soil, resulting in healthier plants that are less susceptible to disease. Some crops such as mustards can reduce soilborne diseases through biofumigation. Cover crops can also prevent pathogens from splashing onto developing plants.
Crop rotation	Planting crops from different plant families in the same space from year to year. Can be combined with double cropping.	Rotating crops from different plant families limits the build-up of disease-causing pathogens, decreasing disease risk.
Double cropping	Different crops are planted one after another in the same space, resulting in multiple crops per season/year.	Planting crops from different plant families limits the build-up of disease-causing pathogens. Keeping crops in the field eliminates bare soil that is susceptible to erosion.
Intercropping	Producing two different crops in the same space at the same time, often on the same row. Example: seven sisters technique.	Intercropping increases plant diversity in the field. Crops from different plant families increase diversity and reduce disease and pest risks.
Irrigation canals	Digging trenches or ditch systems for water to move through fields. This can also utilize natural rainfall for irrigation.	Trenches and canals for water movement improve soil drainage. This prevents standing water that can increase the risk of disease.
Migration planting	Timing planting and harvest on migration patterns of birds or other animals tracks progression of the seasons and cyclic weather patterns. This can delay planting in spring and help avoid frosts and freezes.	Delayed planting results in warmer soil, often avoiding soilborne diseases. Modern forecasting is more effective in predicting weather events, and low-cost tools are available to monitor soil moisture and temperature.
Mound building	Moving soil into round or rectangular mounds to plant crops in raised beds.	Mounds improve drainage, eliminating standing water that can increase disease risk. Raised beds/rows are similar to mounds and may be easier to work with modern equipment.
Non-mechanized equipment	Farming operations performed without the aid of machines. Mechanized equipment promotes farm expansion and is needed for large-scale production. Equipment can be expensive, and small- scale farmers may not have access to funding. Growers may also choose to utilize non-mechanized practices.	Hand tools are versatile and prevent mechanical damage to plants in small spaces. This maintains plant health and reduces disease. Mechanized equipment, however, increases consistency and provides alternatives for specialized spraying. All types of tools and equipment should be cleaned and sanitized to prevent disease spread.
Permaculture	Planting crops to mimic the natural ecosystem, including a specific focus on increased organic matter in soils. This practice requires a knowledge of the native environment. Practices can include no-till or minimal till.	Diversity of plants in one planting area can reduce the risk for diseases and pests. Healthy soils increase biodiversity and reduce diseases and pests. Soilborne diseases may build up in no-till systems without implementation of crop rotations.

Historical Practice	Description & Purpose	Disease Management Impact
Plant thinning	Removal of some seedlings reduces overall stand count and plant density, providing more space for individual plants and reducing competition for water and nutrients.	Proper plant spacing leads to improved air flow and reduces humidity around plants. Low humidity conditions reduce risk for disease development.
Salting	Salt scattered in or around fields prior to planting to ward of malevolent spirits.	Salt inhibits plant and microbial growth. If salt is scattered away from field edges, it can reduce weeds that transmit diseases and pests. Salt can kill or cause damage to crops, leading to higher disease risk.
Seed saving	Seeds collected to preserve heirloom cultivars and/or reduce costs. Many heirloom seeds are only available through heritage collections and must be saved.	Seeds saved from healthy, disease-free plants are less likely to transmit seedborne pathogens. Saved seeds can also be treated with bleach or hot water to reduce internal and external pathogens.
Succession planting	Staggering the planting date of the same crop throughout the season.	Succession planting results in staggered harvests. Losses from one crop may be replaced by successes in others. Postharvest disease losses may be reduced due to reduced time in storage.
Terracing	Amended slopes create flat areas that resemble steps, maximizing farmable land, improving drainage, and reducing erosion.	Improved drainage reduces conditions that favor many soil-borne diseases.

#### **UK RESOURCES**

 Plant Pathology Extension Publications https://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/extension/publications

Basics of Biofumigation (CCD-FS-20)

https://ccd.uky.edu/sites/default/files/2024-12/ccdfs-20 biofumigation.pdf

Cleaning & Disinfecting Hand Tools & Planting Supplies (PPFS-GEN-17)

https://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/sites/plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/files/PPFS-GEN-17.pdf

Disease Management Practices for Saved Vegetable
 Seeds (PPFS-VG-09)

https://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/sites/plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/files/PPFS-VG-09.pdf

 Postharvest Disease Losses in Fruit & Vegetable Crops (PPFS-GEN-24)

https://plantpathology.ca.uky.edu/files/ppfs-gen-24. pdf

#### February 2025

**Editor:** Cheryl Kaiser, Plant Pathology Extension Support **Photo:** Buddy431, Wikimedia Commons (<u>link</u>)

### **ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

 Best, B. (2017). Kentucky Heirloom Seeds. The University Press.

• LeVasseur, T., Parajuli, P., & Wirzba, N. (Eds.). (2016). Religion and sustainable agriculture: world spiritual traditions and food ethics. The University Press of Kentucky.

 Penniman, L. (2018). Farming while Black: Soul Fire Farm's practical guide to liberation on the land. Chelsea Green Publishing.

Pigg, J., Sr. (1992, January 22). Interview by P.
 Keenist. Family Farms of Kentucky: African American
 Farmers Oral History Project. Louie B. Nunn Center for
 Oral History, University of Kentucky Libraries, Lexington

 Salmón, E. (2012). Eating the landscape: American Indian stories of food, identity, and resilience (1st ed.). University of Arizona Press.

 Sillitoe, P. (Ed.). (2017). Indigenous knowledge: enhancing its contribution to natural resources management. CABI.

Sizemore, L. (2016, August 26). Interview by K.
 Engle. Stinking Creek Stories Oral History Project. Louie
 B. Nunn Center for Oral History, University of Kentucky
 Libraries, Lexington

Educational programs of the Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability, or national origin.

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#### Cooperative **Extension Service**

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE. FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

For more details visit our website https://franklin.ca.uky.edu/field-day





# **UK Beef Management Webinar Series**

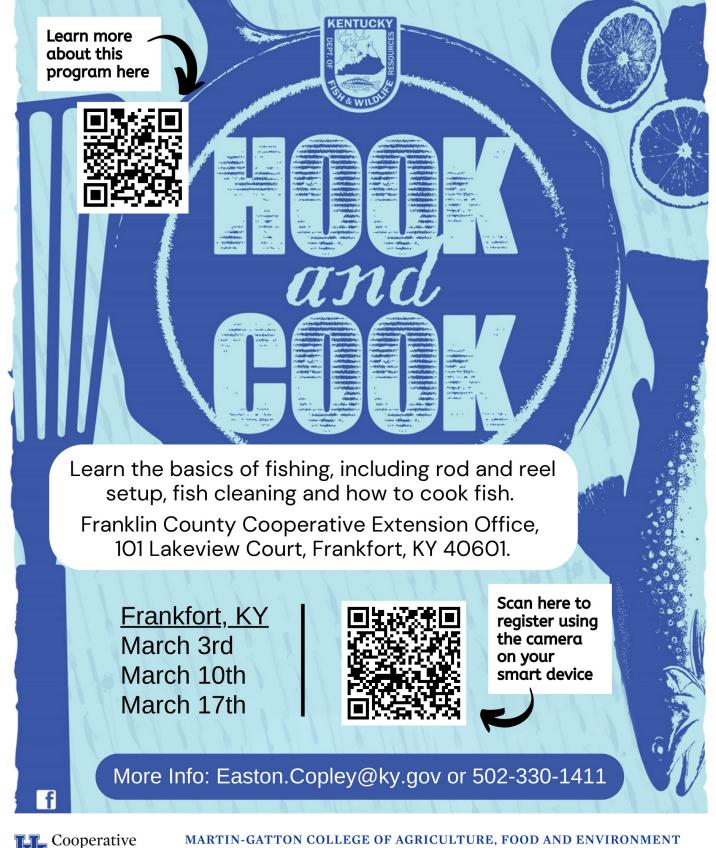
Registration is necessary, however, if you received this email directly from Darrh Bullock then you are already registered. If you received this from another source, or have not registered previously, then please send an email to dbullock@uky.edu with Beef Webinar in the subject line and your name and county in the message. You will receive the direct link with a password the morning of each meeting. This invitation will directly link you to the site and you will be asked for the password which can be found just below the link. Each session will be recorded and posted for later viewing. All meeting times are 8:00pm ET/7:00pm CT.

#### March 11, 2025

Preparing for a Successful Spring Breeding Season – Les Anderson, Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

#### April 8, 2025

Health Update and Internal Parasite Field Study Results – Michelle Arnold, Extension Veterinarian, and Jeff Lehmkuhler, Extension Professor, University of Kentucky



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#### MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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Disabilities

accommodated

with prior notification.

Extension Service 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 disabilit 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

# **10 FREE SOIL SAMPLES**

# Sponsored By: Franklin County Conservation District

# January 1- April 30, 2025

For Franklin County or Frankfort Residents or Farms located in Franklin County.



Franklin County Conservation District 103 Lakeview Court Frankfort, KY 40601 Phone: (502) 352-2701

#### Cooperative Extension Service

Franklin County 101 Lakeview Court Frankfort, KY 40601-8750 502-695-9035 franklin.ca.uky.edu

# FREE SOIL SAMPLE COUPON Sponsored By: Franklin County Conservation District

January 1- April 30, 2025, the Franklin County Conservation District is sponsoring 10 FREE soil tests.

Bring this coupon in with your soil sample(s) and receive FREE BASIC SOIL TESTING.

Redeemable only at the FRANKLIN COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE located at 101 Lakeview Court, Frankfort KY. (502) 695-9035 <u>https://franklin.ca.uky.edu</u>

For information on how to take a soil sample: <u>www.ca.uky.edu/agc/pubs/agr/agr16/agr16.pdf</u>

LIMIT 10 (ten) FREE SAMPLES per PERSON Coupon available for Franklin County or Frankfort Residents or Farms located in Franklin County. NO COMMERCIAL SAMPLES WITH THIS OFFER

# UPCOMING<br/>HORTICULTURE<br/>HORTICULTS- MARCHImprovidential<br/>Improvidential<br/>Martin-Gatton<br/>College of Agriculture,<br/>College of Agr



# SEED STARTING WORKSHOP

10:00 AM

FIRST CORINTHIAN BAPTIST CHURCH 214 MURRAY ST.





# FREE- SPRING GARDEN KIT GIVEAWAY

8 AM - 6 PM 101 LAKEVIEW COURT

In-person talk at noon, pickup from 8am-6pm (plants, seeds, handouts, and a video). Quantities are limited. REGISTRATION NOT REQUIRED.

# Call or email to register: 502-695-9035 franklin.ca.uky.edu

#### Cooperative Extension Service

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

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# EXPERTS URGE CAUTION AS COYOTE MATING SEASON CONTINUES THROUGH MARCH IN KENTUCKY

#### Morehead State Public Radio | By Brayden Wilson

Coyote mating season takes place in Kentucky through early March. Experts said people should expect to see more of the wild canines as they look to reproduce.

John Cox, Associate Professor of Wildlife and Conservation Biology at the University of Kentucky, said people should exercise caution as coyotes search for mates.

"Coyotes, especially males, might be just a little bit bolder than they would during other times of the year so it's possible that they may get a little bit closer to peoples' houses or farms in pursuit of mates, and in some cases, they may be a just little bit more aggressive," said Cox.



Cox also said drivers should be aware of increased road crossings as the animals travel to find mates. He said coyotes may also come near homes during the mating season.

"Things that attract them are pet foods, small pets, sometimes if, for example, if cattle die and they are disposed of fairly close to residences that may pull those animals in to scavenge those carcasses," said Cox.

Cox said coyotes can be a danger to pets and small animals. He said owners should limit their animal's exposure to coyotes whenever possible and keep an eye out if coyotes are spotted or heard in the area. He went on to say the wild canines can sometimes see domestic animals as prey animals or even competitors for resources. Cox noted coyote attacks on humans are rare and happen far less often than domesticated dog attacks.



# Jr. Cattlemen's Corner

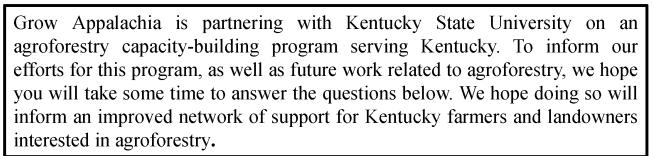
A big thank you to the Perkins Farm for allowing the Franklin Co Junior Cattlemen's Working Team handson experience to practice their cattle processing skills! Roger Perkins and John Bondurant assisted the two teams while processing a new load of feeder calves. The team members vaccinated, de-wormed and tagged the recently arrived calves using Beef Quality Care and Assurance guidelines.

The KJCA Cattle Working Contest is designed for KJCA Members who want to develop their skills in animal management and handling. Working as a team, members must efficiently process three head

safely & efficiently utilizing BQCA guidelines. They are also responsible for completing a processing plan for everything administered to the livestock including vaccine amounts with locations, lot numbers and expiration dates . Both teams will compete in the KJCA Cattle Working Contest Qualifiers March 21<sup>st</sup> in Elizabethtown. Good luck to our Teams and thank you to Advisors Crystal Harrod, Ally Harrod and Jonathan Moore!



# "Share your opinion about BEREA COLLEGE Agroforestry in Kentucky"





This quick survey takes just 10 minutes to complete, and all your answers will remain confidential. We greatly appreciate your time and input.

- At Kentucky State University, we value your feedback. We are conducting research on understanding different factors concerning your decisions to adopt agroforestry practices. We are looking for ways to support farmers like you who are adopting or are open to adopting sustainable land management strategies like agroforestry.
- We value your expertise as a farmer and would like to receive your responses to a survey that will help improve agroforestry in Kentucky. Kentucky State University leads this survey in partnership with Grow Appalachia.

Open the link or scan the QR code below to start the survey:



Link: https://tinyurl.com/AFKYSU

We greatly appreciate your time and input.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Sudha Bhandari at <u>Sudha.bhandari@kysu.edu</u> or

Dr. Suraj Upadhaya at <u>Suraj.Upadhaya@kysu.edu</u>, Cell: 502-597-6146

# FREE TREE SEEDLINGS One Day Only - March 19, 2025

Tree Seedlings will be given away at the Franklin County Conservation District office, on a first come basis, on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, from 8:00 am until supply is gone. The office is located at 103 Lakeview Court.

Individuals will be limited to a total of ten tree bags only - each bag will consist of two trees of each species Chinese Chestnut, Chinkapin Oak, Flowering Dogwood, Pawpaw, Pecan, Persimmon, Pin Oak, Red Shumard Oak, White Oak and White Pine

> NEED HELP CLEANING UP?

# TRAINED VOLUNTEERS ARE AVAILABLE TO HELP:

- General flood clean up
- · Damaged wall removal
- Tarp-cover roofs
- · Pick up debris
- Stop mold growth
- Remove broken appliances



## VOLUNTEER HOTLINE 1-502-607-6665

Operators are available 8 am to 8 pm (Eastern). After hours, voicemail is available.

Find more emergency disaster resources here: <u>https://</u> <u>anr.ca.uky.edu/extensionhelps</u>



Calendars are HERE! Stop by the Franklin County Extension Office Lobby To pick one up today!

# Franklin County Conservation District

BACKYARD CONSERVATION PROGRAM Urban Cost Share Program

## January 1, 2025 to June 1, 2025

<u>Raised Garden Beds, Rain Barrels, Compost Bins,</u> <u>Pollinator Gardens and Beehives</u>

• First come, first serve.

Capital Area Extension

Master Gardeners'

Saturday, April 26th 9am - 1pm

Lakeview Park

(Farm Bureau

Pavilion)

118 Park Avenue

Frankfort, KY

SAVE THE

DATE!!!

- Franklin County Residents only
- One application per household
- 50% cost share up to \$250 maximum

# Must have approval before you begin project



Franklin County Conservation District 103 Lakeview Court Frankfort, KY 40601 502-352-2701

fccd103@gmail.com

Kentucky Master Grazer Educational Program
2025 Kentucky Grazing Calendar



Plant Market

Tomatoes, peppers,

herbs, perennials

and MORE!

# 2025 BIG TREE CONTEST Elm Tree

## <u>RULES</u>

#### 1. Must be Elm Tree

. . . . . . .

- 2. Measure circumference of tree at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet from the ground on the high side.
- 3. Tree must be 75% live and be located in Franklin County.
- 4. Tree measurement and date **must** be verified by landowner.
- 5. Same tree eligible for only one category.
- 6. All entries must be submitted to the Franklin County Conservation District located at 103 Lakeview Court no later than March 19, 2025.

#### The Winner in each Category will be presented a \$50 cash award

K-5 grade	18 to 55 Years of Age
6-8 grade	Senior Citizen (56 & Over)
9-12 grade	FFA Chapter
Organizations	Over All Winner

For any questions, contact the Franklin County Conservation District at 502/352-2701.

ENTRY FORM		
Participant Name:	Age:	
Address:	Grade:	
Phone:	Date:	
Measurement at 4 ½ feet from ground:		
Address of Property (tree location):		
Directions/Map to Tree:		

Landowner Verification: On the back, draw a map showing location of tree from nearest designated state highway in Franklin County (Give point to point distance).

The Winner in each Category will be presented a \$50 cash award

# 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-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 K

## **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.

#### 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, 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

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT



#### JOIN US ALL YEAR FOR Third Thursday Thing THIRD THURSDAY THING Improve Habitat on your Farm Kentucky State University | Forestry and Natural Resources January 16th: Farm Safety & Disaster Recovery March 20th, 2025 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM CAIF February 20th: Organic Agriculture PPROVED March 20th: Natural Resource Management 10:00 Welcome | Jody Thompson, KSU 10:15 Convert Pasture to Habitat | Ray Smith, UK April 17th: Grow, Buy, Eat Local 11:00 Break May 15th: Aquaculture 11:15 Farm Pond Management | David Baker & Jeff Crosby, KDFWR June 19th: Juneteenth/ Business Planning 12:00 Lunch 1:00 FSI & Woodland Habitat Creation | Cody Jarrett, KDFWR July 17th: Cattle & Poultry 1:45 Break August 21st: Agri-technology & Vertical Farming 2:00 Habitat Management Scenerios | Jody Thomspon, KSU September 18th: Horticulture & Urban Agriculture 3:00 Close | CEUs October 16th: Small Ruminants November 20th: Small, Limited-Resource, Minority **Farmers** Conference

If you would like to join our Small Farms Programming email list please email Savanna Frye at: savanna.frye1@kysu.edu

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#### **AG & NATURAL RESOURCES**



# SATURDAY, APRIL 12 | 9 AM - 1 PM **RIVERVIEW PARK 404 WILKINSON BLVD**

Join us for tree planting, free food & music, urban forestry and eco art along the banks of our Kentucky River!





Household Hazardous Waste **April 19** 

# **FCCD Scrap Metal Drive April 17-19**





# Dijon Chicken Asparagus Roll Ups

#### 3 tablespoons

**Dijon** mustard 1/2 cup low fat mayonnaise 1 lemon, juiced (approximately 3 tablespoons)

2 teaspoons black pepper 1/2 teaspoon salt 16 spears fresh asparagus, trimmed

2 teaspoons dried thyme 4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves (about 5 ounces each) 4 slices skimmed mozzarella cheese 1 cup panko bread crumbs

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Grease an 11-by-7-inch baking dish. In a bowl, mix together the mustard, mayonnaise, lemon juice, thyme, salt and pepper; set aside. Place asparagus in a microwave safe dish and microwave on high 1-1½ minutes. Place chicken breasts between two sheets of heavy plastic (a re-sealable freezer bag works well) on a firm surface. Pound the chicken breasts with the smooth side of a meat mallet to thickness of 1/4 inch. Place one slice of cheese and four asparagus spears on each breast. Tightly roll the chicken breasts around the asparagus

and cheese. Place each, seam side down, in the prepared baking dish. Apply a coating of the mustard mixture to each chicken breast and sprinkle each with the panko crumbs, pressing the crumbs into the chicken to secure. Bake 35 minutes or until the chicken temperature is 165 degrees F. For crisper chicken, place roll-ups under the broiler for 1-2 minutes on high. Yield: 4 servings

#### **Nutritional Analysis:**

370 calories, 10 g fat, 3.5 g saturated fat, 115 mg cholesterol, 1060 mg sodium, 2 g fiber, 2 g sugars, 41 g protein.



This training is required to use the KSU Mobile Processing Unit. The MPU can be used to process chickens, rabbits, some aquaculture species and other nonamenable species. Space is limited to 20 people for each training, but another training will be scheduled if needed.

# May 7th or May 16th

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Harold R. Benson Research and Demonstration Farm 1525 Mills Lane Frankfort, KY 40601

Cost: \$75



TO REGISTER CONTACT: MEGAN GOINS (<u>MEGAN.GOINS@KYSU.EDU</u> 502-597.6528)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



# HELP SECURE AGRICULTURE'S FUTURE BY DONATING TO THE 'AG TAG' FUND

Op-ed from Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Feb. 11, 2025) -

Kentucky Ag Tag is on the road to \$1 million and we need your help getting there.

Last year, Kentucky farmers donated a record-breaking \$931,201.81 to the Ag Tag Program. It was the largest amount ever donated in a single year and topped the 2023 total by nearly \$200,000. But this year, I'm hoping we can reach that \$1 million mark creating even more positive outcomes for Kentucky's agricultural youth.

Ag Tag money is generated through the \$10 voluntary donation Kentuckians make each year when they buy or renew their farm vehicle license plates, or "ag tags." The money is then split equally between the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, Kentucky FFA, and Kentucky 4-H to support Kentucky's agriculture youth and other organizations and programs benefiting our farm families.

The \$10 donation may seem like a small amount. But, by multiplying it by the thousands of Kentuckians that give and then putting those funds in the hands of the department that focuses on the state's agriculture community and the two leading agriculture youth development organizations, we are providing a strong backbone for Kentucky's agricultural future.

As a former FFA kid I know the differences the organization can make in a young person's life. Providing leadership experiences, life lessons, lasting friendships, and giving me the skills I needed for my future, FFA set me off on a path that led me to the Commissioner of Agriculture office.

In the same way FFA helped shape my life, 4-H creates experiences that make lasting impacts. 4-H and FFA are two youth programs that are at the forefront of the future of Kentucky agriculture, providing direction in life for many of our influential young people.

You can help create those lasting impacts by donating to Kentucky 4-H and Kentucky FFA when you buy or renew your farm license plate, or "Ag Tags" this year. When renewing your plate, you have the opportunity to make a \$10 donation. It's a small amount that can make a huge difference and one of the easiest ways to give back to the community and the future of agriculture.

The KDA uses its share of the Ag Tag funds for various programs such as the Ag Athlete of the Year awards, the Kentucky Leopold Conservation Award, Kentucky Women in Agriculture, and the University of Kentucky Grain and Forage Center of Excellence. KDA will be using the funds for a new program this year that monetarily incentivizes Kentucky school district using Kentucky food products for school meals. We are extremely excited about this endeavor and see it as a fantastic way to bring more Kentucky agriculture products into healthy, nutritious school meals.

Half of the 4-H and FFA donations are returned to local councils and chapters, meaning leaders in your community can use those funds to cover the cost of 4-H and FFA camp and other leadership programs for our youth. County 4-H councils use Ag Tag dollars to provide 4-H camp scholarships and travel for life-changing educational experiences to enable local 4-H youth to grow as leaders and engaged citizens. FFA chapters are free to use the money to meet the greatest needs in their community, such as FFA jackets for students in need or helping cover travel costs to leadership events.

#### Continued from Page 16

That unselfish willingness to help build and prepare Kentucky's agriculture youth are predominant features of FFA and 4-H. They are two of the leading youth organizations in Kentucky and the nation. While they work to prepare youth to take on the challenges agriculture faces, KDA works every day to promote Kentucky's farmers, inviting each resident in the Commonwealth to realize the importance agriculture plays in the present and in the future. That future is Kentucky's agriculture youth. That's why this year's Ag Tag campaign theme is "Bluegrass Beginnings, Boundless Futures." Funding from your voluntary donations helps all three organizations fulfill our mission to sustain Kentucky agriculture for generations to come securing the future of Kentucky agriculture.

In the weeks to come, as many of you head back to your county clerk's office to renew your Ag Tags, I hope you will make the \$10 donation. Last year we set a record for Ag Tag collections in a single year. Let's try to break that record this year, while at the same time helping to ensure a bright future for Kentucky agriculture.



Region 3 counties include Bullitt, Spencer, Anderson, Jefferson, Shelby, Franklin, Scott, Harrison, Bracken, Pendleton, Grant, Owen, Henry, Oldham, Trimble, Carroll, Gallatin, Boone, Kenton, and Campbell.



Be sure to follow our Facebook page for all the up-to-date information and articles. @FranklinCountyKyCooperativeExtension

# **SAVE THE DATES:**

March 11 March 9 March 19 March 20 March 21 11:25 & 11:55 April 7 April 12 April 26 Regional Tobacco Gap Annual Training
Daylight Savings Time Begins
CEC, noon
KSU TTT Natural Resources & Habitat Management
FCJC Cattle Working Team Qualifier competition, Etown
Sheep & Goat Management Meeting, Mercer Co
Reforest at Riverview Park
MG Plant Sale, Lakeview Park

# 2025 Livestock Events at Lakeview Park

March 22 Vista Brook—Pig Sale April 26– Master Gardeners Plant Sale May 4– Derby Showcase– Dairy Sale May 10– Capital City– Rabbit Show June 7– Bluegrass Invitational—Kiko Goat Sale June 14– Franklin County Dair Show Inc.

September 27– Rabbit Show

Keena R Bissy

Keenan Bishop, County Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources



## 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.

Lexington, KY 40506