



Jessamine County  
Agriculture

# AGRICULTURE NEWS

## AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES



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

**Cooperative  
Extension Service**  
Jessamine County  
95 Park Drive  
Nicholasville, KY 40356  
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[www.jessamine.ca.uky.edu](http://www.jessamine.ca.uky.edu)

Steve Musen  
Jessamine County Extension Agent  
Agriculture and Natural Resources



### October 2025

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

*"Today's Challenges, Tomorrow's Opportunities"*

## Kentucky Beef Conference

### October 21, 2025

Fayette County Extension Office  
1140 Harry Sykes Way  
Lexington, Kentucky 40504

**2:00-3:00**  
Registration, visit  
sponsors

**RSVP by October 17th  
to Fayette County  
Extension Office  
859.257.5582**

**\*\*If you have a gluten or  
alpha gal allergy please  
indicate that when you  
call\*\***

**CAIP Education Eligible**

**3:00 — Welcome & Sponsor Recognition**  
Allison Tucker, Fayette County Agriculture & Natural Resources Extension Agent

**University of KY Remarks & Welcome**  
Dr. Craig Wood, Ast. Director of Extension for Agriculture, Natural Resources & Horticulture

**Marketing Update & Outlook**  
Dr. Kenny Burdine, UK Beef Economic Extension Specialist

**4:00 — Bull Management & Selection**  
Dr. Saulo Zoca, University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture Beef Reproduction Extension Specialist

**5:00— Emerging Insect Pests**  
Dr. Hannah Tiffin, UK Extension Entomologist  
Dr. Jessie Lay, UK Extension Animal Health Veterinarian

**6:15 — Questions/Wrap up**

**6:30 — Meal**

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

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LEXINGTON, KY 40546

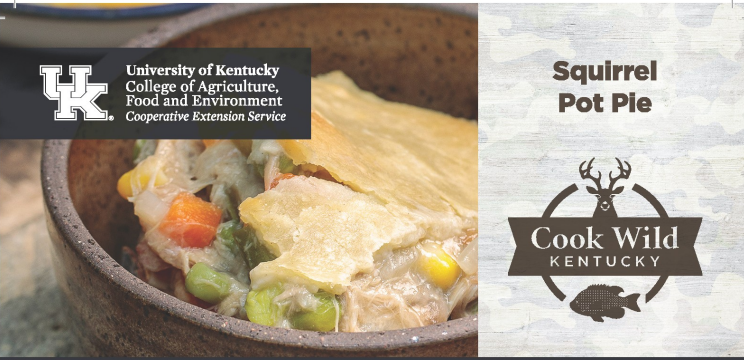



Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.

## Upcoming Events in Agriculture

Oct 3-4	Jessamine County Cattlemen Cookout @ Walmart Parking	Oct 21	KY Beef Conference 2:00p-7:00p @ Fayette County Extension (see page 1)
Oct 10-19	Kentucky Tree Week (see flyer for details)	Oct 28	2025 KY Grazing Conference Winchester, KY (see flyer)
Oct 15-22	Jessamine County Cattlemen Educational Trip to Texas	Oct 29	Profitability in Ruminant Livestock Operations—With Jim Gerrish @ Hardin County Extension Office
Oct 18	Eden Shale Farm Open House Owenton, KY (see flyer)		


For more information on any of these programs, please contact the Jessamine County Extension Office







University of Kentucky  
College of Agriculture,  
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**Squirrel  
Pot Pie**






This institution is an equal opportunity provider. This material was partially funded by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program — SNAP.



This work is supported by the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.



## Healthy Recipe From Cook Wild Kentucky

**Squirrel Pot Pie**

- 2 squirrels, cut in half
- 3 cups chicken stock
- 4 tablespoons flour
- ½ cup sliced mushrooms, about 2 ounces
- ½ cup chopped celery, about 1 rib
- 1 small onion, diced
- 1 cup frozen mixed vegetables
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon pepper
- 1 refrigerated pie crust
- 1 tablespoon milk

1. Wash hands with warm water and soap, scrubbing for at least 20 seconds.
2. Place squirrels in large stockpot. Add chicken stock and cover. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Reduce heat and simmer 1 hour.
3. Wash mushrooms, celery, and

onion with a clean vegetable brush under running water before preparing.

4. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F.
5. Remove pot with squirrels from heat and let sit 10 to 15 minutes or until meat is cool enough to handle. Use tongs to remove meat and bones from broth. Separate and discard all bones and cartilage. Chop any large pieces of meat.
6. Place a colander over a large bowl and strain broth to remove any additional bones. In a small bowl, stir cooled broth, 1 tablespoon at a time, into flour until a smooth liquid is achieved.
7. Return remaining broth to pot. Stir flour mixture into broth and heat, stirring, until broth comes to a boil and has thickened.

8. Add meat, all vegetables, and seasonings to broth, and stir to mix.
9. Pour mixture into a deep-dish pie plate or baking dish.
10. Cover squirrel mixture with premade pie crust. Slit crust to vent.
11. Brush top of crust with milk.
12. Bake 40 minutes or until golden brown.
13. Serve immediately. Store leftovers in the refrigerator within 2 hours.

**Yield:** 6 servings  
**Serving Size:** 1/6 pie

**Nutrition facts per serving:**  
390 calories; 18g total fat; 3.5g saturated fat; 2.5g trans fat; 65mg cholesterol; 580mg sodium; 32g total carbohydrate; 1g dietary fiber; 4g sugars; 0g added sugars; 23g protein; 0% Daily Value of vitamin D; 2% Daily Value of calcium; 30% Daily Value of iron; 8% Daily Value of potassium.



## Upcoming Opportunities:

### Eden Shale Farm Open House

October 18th @ 400 Eden Shale Rd., Owenton

Learn about:

- New Winter Feeding Structure – Dr. Steve Higgins, University of Kentucky
- Novel Endophyte Fescue in a Grazing System – Adam Probst, Barenbrug Seed
- Environmental Health: Vector-Borne Diseases – Sarah Wilhoite, KY Dept. of Public Health. Event begins at 10am. Lunch will be provided!

Meets CAIP Education Requirements. (See Flyer)

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### Kentucky Beef Conference

October 21, 2:00p registration, 3:00p-6:00p program, 6:30 Dinner @ Fayette County Extension Office. See flyer on page 1 for registration and program information.

Meets CAIP Education Requirements

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### 2025 Kentucky Grazing Conference

Tuesday, October 28th at the Clark County Extension Office. The theme for this year's Kentucky Grazing Conference is "Grazing for Profit: Optimizing Returns in Grass-Based Operations." Educational sessions will include presentations on managing expenses and costs in livestock operations, breeding functional livestock, nutrient cycling in grassland ecosystems, forage management for shifting weather patterns, bale grazing and more. See flyer for registration and agenda information.

Meets CAIP Education Requirements.-

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### Profitability in Ruminant Livestock Operations: A Deep Dive with Jim Gerrish

October 29, 8:00a-3:00p @ Hardin County Extension Office.

Join us for a small group workshop led by Jim Gerrish examining factors impacting profitability and outlining cost-effective solutions for increasing net return in ruminant livestock operations.

See flyer for registration and program information.

Meets CAIP Education Requirements

## Add Value by Adding Pounds

***“The current forage conditions combined with the high feeder cattle prices and low grain/commodity feed prices have aligned in a manner that signals creep feeding to be profitable”***

This year has been a year of extremes for precipitation. I pulled up the KY Mesonet data from the Franklin County location. The total recorded precipitation was 10.9” for April, 8.8” in May, 7.3” in June, only 3.6” in July and a meager 0.5” in August. If we go a few miles east to the Lexington Mesonet recording station April was similar at 10.1”, 7.6” in May, June was 3.3” while July and August recorded only 2.0” of monthly precipitation. The high levels of precipitation in the spring made hay harvesting a challenge. This concerns me as most of the first cutting hay was cut late at a mature stage. Late-cut hay will have lower than normal nutritional value. I encourage you to work with your county extension agent or nutritionist to get your hay tested for nutrient content. The low levels of precipitation in July and August has led to much of the state experiencing abnormally dry to moderate drought conditions. A bit of relief has come to some areas, but hopefully more rain will come to get some grass growth yet this fall.

The current forage conditions combined with the high feeder cattle prices and low grain/commodity feed prices have aligned in a manner that signals creep feeding to be profitable. As calves reach two months of age, they are fully functioning ruminants. As calves get older and heavier, the calves rely more on the forage available to them to supply the nutrients for growth as their dam’s milk supply declines. Limited forage growth will reduce availability and quality. Further, cows may be producing less milk if forage resources are limited and

they are in a negative plane of nutrition. These conditions may lead to reduced weight weaning and less value at marketing.

Creep feeding with a commodity mix or commercial creep feed can provide supplemental nutrition to nursing calves. Research has demonstrated that creep supplementation replaces forage intake nearly pound per pound while milk intake remains constant. Substitution of grain for forage increases nutrient intake to support greater growth. The efficiency of creep feed to the added pounds can vary greatly. When calves are older and heavier, creep intakes can be quite high while the feed efficiency is poor if intake is not limited. Limiting creep intake has been shown to give better feed efficiency, but this leads to less additional gain.

Many factors need to be considered when deciding to creep feed. Creep feeding can reduce weaning stress when the same creep supplement is offered during the weaning period as the calves are accustomed to the grain mix. Hand-feeding creep provides you the control over how much feed is offered. Hand-feeding also gets calves familiar with you being near them and they learn to eat from a bunk. Other factors such as feedstuffs, nutrient levels, length of time creep is offered and the market slide for heavier calves need to be considered.

Published research on creep response and feed conversion combined with market prices can be used to help evaluate whether creep will be profitable. I ran the scenario shown below using a shorter creep feeding period of 60 days where the creep feed is \$275/ton. The creep is expected to provide a 0.5 lb daily gain response on a 9:1 partial feed conversion. The recent market report suggests

*(continued on page 6)*



## Horticulture Highlights!

*By: Naomi Howell, Jessamine County Program Assistant for Horticulture*

**Plant Pun of the Month: What brightens up a garden the most when planted? Bulbs!**

### October is Garlic Planting Time

With ghosts, goblins, and vampires on the prowl in October, it's the perfect time to plant your garlic for next spring. Garlic has long been viewed as a way to ward off vampires, according to European folklore. Whether that is fact or fiction, one thing is for sure, October is the time to plant garlic. Planting in the fall produces larger bulbs and more complex flavors. Garlic enhances food recipes and is seen as a traditional medicine in some cultures.

Garlic is best planted in the fall for harvesting next spring, usually in June. Nothing stores better after harvest than garlic because it is largely not affected by pests or diseases.

Place your garlic cloves in full sun and a well-drained, fertile site. Mix some organic matter like compost into the soil to provide more nutrients and to increase drainage. Plant cloves about 2 inches deep in the soil with the pointed end of the clove turned up. Prior to planting you should do a soil test to make sure your pH levels are between 6.0 and 6.5. Adding shredded leaves or straw on top will protect the cloves from cold winter and retain soil moisture. Be sure to put your garlic in a corner of your garden or a space where you won't be planting next spring. Each clove of garlic should be planted six inches

apart and will produce a new head with six to eight cloves at harvest. You don't need to plant a lot of garlic, because a little will go a long way.

There are three types of garlic, the softneck, hardneck and elephant garlic. The softneck has two types, the artichoke and silver skin. Both are common garlic types sold in the supermarket and you have likely used them. The hardneck has large cloves, is easy to peel and has more intense flavor than softnecks. It also has a flower scape or flowering stem. Elephant garlic is a third type but is actually a member of the onion family and is considered a variant of the leek.

*Source: Adam Leonberger, UK Extension Horticulture Agent*


Contact Jessamine County office of the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service for information on planting garlic.

View UK Publication [NEP-241](#) for more information about planting and growing garlic.



### Bulbs Bulbs Bulbs!

Towards the end of October, plant any of the following bulbs:

Floral Bulbs!	Culinary Bulbs!
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daffodils</li> <li>• Crocus (both spring- and fall-blooming)</li> <li>• Hyacinths</li> <li>• Snowdrops</li> <li>• Tulips</li> <li>• Alliums</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Garlic</li> <li>• Multiplying onions</li> <li>• Shallots</li> </ul> 

## Add Value by Adding Pounds (continued)

**“The current situation with low forage availability, late cut hay, high feeder calves and lower feed costs all point towards value addition through added pounds using creep this year”**

(continued from Page 4)

that the slide between 5 and 6 weight calves is between \$20-\$25/cwt. I pulled the market price for 5 weight steers to use as the base price.

The outcome modeled shows calves would be 30 pounds heavier at weaning with the creep feed. The market price for the additional weight is \$7.50/cwt lower for the heavier feeder calves at \$382.50. Creep feed cost is calculated to be just over \$37. The added value from the additional pounds marketed leads to a positive return of \$40/head. Again, this is a simulation to show how using market information and current conditions can help make management decisions. Returns of this magnitude are rarely forecast for creep feeding but are not surprising, considering high feeder calf values and the current cost of feed inputs.

The current situation with low forage availability, late cut hay, high feeder

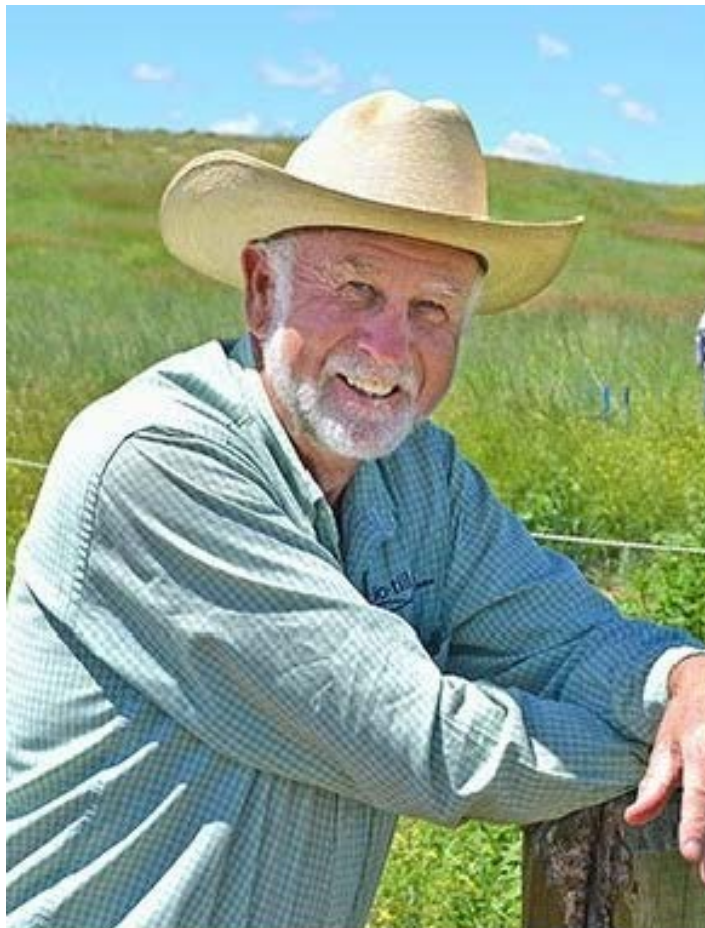
calves and lower feed costs all point towards value addition through added pounds using creep this year. Be sure you work with a nutritionist to obtain a creep that works for your level of management. Avoid creep feeds with high levels of starch from grains such as corn to lower the risk of acidosis and foundering calves. Highly digestible fibrous coproducts such as soybean hulls, corn gluten feed, dried distillers grains, rice bran, beet pulp and others should be considered in the mix. When possible, use of roughage feedstuffs such as cottonseed hulls or a low amount of ground hay can also help lower the risk of acidosis but these feedstuffs can lead to issues of feed compacting in the feeder. Manage the doors to keep them low and reduce sorting by calves. For more information, reach out to your local Extension office.

*Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler, UK Extension Professor and Beef Cattle Specialist*

## Creep Feeding Decision Aid

Starting Weight	lb	375	Base End wt	lb	507
Creep duration	days fed	60	Creep End wt	lb	537
Base ADG	lb/d	2.2	Creep Consumed	lb/period	270
ADG increase	lb/d	0.5		lb/d	4.5
Creep Efficiency	lb/lb	9	Creep Cost	\$/hd	\$ 37.13
Creep feed cost	\$/ton	\$ 275.00	Base Feeder Value		\$ 1,977.30
Feeder Slide	\$/cwt	\$ 25.00	Slide Adj Feeder Value		\$ 382.50
Base Price	\$/cwt	\$ 390.00	Creep Feeder Value		\$ 2,054.03
			Partial Net Value		\$39.60





# 2025 KY GRAZING CONFERENCE

**GRAZING FOR PROFIT:  
OPTIMIZING RETURNS IN GRASS  
BASED OPERATIONS**

**FEATURING  
PRESENTATIONS BY...**

**JIM GERRISH  
DR. GREG HALICH  
DR. CHRIS TEUTSCH  
DR. RAY SMITH  
CODY RAKES  
DR. RICARDO RIBERIO  
& LOCAL PRODUCERS**

## TWO LOCATIONS IN KY



**Tuesday, October 28**  
Winchester, KY



**Thursday, October 30**  
Leitchfield, KY

**REGISTER TODAY!**

<https://2025GrazingConferenceEast.eventbrite.com>  
<https://2025GrazingConferenceWest.eventbrite.com>

Winchester, KY



Leitchfield, KY



KENTUCKY  
**FORAGE &  
GRASSLAND**  
COUNCIL



# 2025 KY GRAZING CONFERENCE AGENDA

7:30 AM Registration & Refreshments

**\*\* All times local \*\***

8:00 AM Welcome  
*Dr. Ray Smith, University of Kentucky*

8:15 AM Seven Things That I Have Learned About Profitable Ranching in the Last 45 Years, *Jim Gerrish, American GrazingLands Services*

9:15 AM Nutrient Cycling in Grassland Ecosystems  
*Dr. Ricardo Riberio, University of Kentucky*

10:00 AM Break & Visit with Sponsors

10:30 AM Forage Management for Shifting Weather Patterns  
*Dr. Chris Teutsch, University of Kentucky*

11:00 AM Breeding a Functional Cow that Works in Your Environment  
*Cody Rakes, Loretto Motherhouse Farm*

11:40 AM Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council Business Meeting & Awards

12:00 PM Lunch & Visit with Sponsors

1:00 PM Forage Spokesperson Contest/Local Producers

2:00 PM What We Have Learned About Bale Grazing  
*Dr. Greg Halich, University of Kentucky*

2:45 PM Managing Feed Costs in Ruminant Livestock Production Systems  
*Jim Gerrish, American GrazingLands Services*

3:30 PM Adjourn

**SPACE IS LIMITED  
REGISTER TODAY**

## REGISTER BY MAIL

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

State, City, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**\$60 per participant OR \$25 per student**

**\$75 per participant at the door**

**SPACE IS LIMITED REGISTER TODAY**

**Make checks payable to KFGC and mail to:**

**KFGC c/o Caroline Roper, PO Box 469, Princeton, KY 42445  
(270) 704-6618**





# TREE WEEK

## October 10th-19th, 2025

Tree Week is a celebration of trees and all the ways they affect our lives! Events and programs include community tree plantings, walks, educational programs, arts, yoga, workshops and seminars, and much more. The Urban Forest Initiative helps communities across Kentucky interested in organizing their own Tree Week through guidance, examples of activities to be hosted, and promotion. We can help your community brainstorm ideas, share with other communities, and launch your first Tree Week!

Take a look at <https://ufi.mgcafe.uky.edu/treeweek> to see events in your area!

**URBAN FOREST INITIATIVE PRESENTS**



**TREE WEEK** OCTOBER 10-19, 2025  
 COMING TO A KENTUCKY COMMUNITY  
 NEAR YOU  



# EDEN SHALE OPEN HOUSE

OCTOBER 18, 2025 • 400 EDEN SHALE RD, OWENTON, KY

## New Winter Feeding Structure

**Dr. Steve Higgins** University of Kentucky

## Novel Endophyte Fescue in a Grazing System

**Adam Probst** Barenbrug Seed

## Environmental Health: Vector-Borne Diseases

**Sarah Wilhoite** Kentucky Department for Public Health

Call **(859) 278-0899** to register or email **kbn@kycattle.org**

Event begins at 10am • Lunch will be Provided





# PROFITABILITY IN RUMINANT LIVESTOCK OPERATIONS: A DEEP DIVE WITH JIM GERRISH



Join us for a small group workshop led by Jim Gerrish examining factors impacting profitability and outlining cost-effective solutions for increasing net return in ruminant livestock operations.

Wednesday, October 29 at the Hardin County Extension Office  
111 Opportunity Way, Elizabethtown KY

8:00 AM Registration and Refreshments

9:00 AM Morning Session: Drivers of Profitability in Ranching Operations

- Ranching as a land management business
- Cow size and profitability
- Feed costs and profitability
- Individual animal performance and whole ranch profitability
- Finding balance between cow-calf production and custom feeding

12:00 PM Catered Lunch and Networking

1:00 PM Afternoon Sessions

Session 1: Making Cost Effective Pasture Improvements

- Stock water development
- Interseeding legumes
- Subdivision fencing
- Reseeding pastures... Making Good Choices

Session 2: How Do You Know it Will Pay... Conducting Cost-Benefit Analysis

- Crunching the numbers
- Finding financial analysis assistance

3:00 PM Questions, Wrap-Up, Evaluation

**SPACE IS LIMITED TO 35 PARTICIPANTS**

## REGISTER BY MAIL

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

State, City, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**\$100 per participant**

**SPACE IS LIMITED, REGISTER TODAY**

Make checks payable to KFGC and mail to:

KFGC c/o Caroline Roper  
PO Box 469, Princeton, KY 42445  
(270) 704-6618

**[Profitability2025.Eventbrite.com](https://Profitability2025.Eventbrite.com)**







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*Cooperative Extension Service*

Jessamine County Extension Service  
95 Park Drive  
Nicholasville, KY 40356

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Equal Opportunity Office, Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, University of Kentucky, Room S-105, Agriculture Science Building, North Lexington, Kentucky 40546,

the UK Office of Equal Opportunity, 13 Main Building, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0032 or US Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.