



[Jessamine County
Agriculture](#)

*The Jessamine
County Extension
Office will be
Closed
December 24th -
January 2nd for
the Holidays*

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



AGRICULTURE NEWS

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

**Cooperative
Extension Service**
Jessamine County
333 Fairgrounds Way
Nicholasville, KY 40356
(859) 885-4811
www.jessamine.ca.uky.edu



Steve Musen
Jessamine County Extension Agent
Agriculture and Natural Resources



December 2025/January 2026

Educational Evening for Kentucky Beef Producers

December 9th

6:00 PM

333 Fairground Way,
Nicholasville, KY

Join us for an educational evening where the Univeristy of Kentucky
Beef Science students will be presenting practical and up-to-date
information to support Kentucky beef producers.

Nutrition
Mineral feeding and
how it affects cattle

Genetics
Picking the right EPDs

Health
Herd health and
processing new cattle

Reproduction
Sex-sorted semen

Producers, students, and anyone interested in improving their beef cattle
program should attend.

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.

Upcoming Events in Agriculture

Dec 4	Winter House Plant Care Series 6:00p @ Jessamine Extension	Jan 11-13	2026 KY Fruit & Vegetable Conf. Sloan Convention Ctr. Bowling Green
Dec 9	UK Beef Student Seminars 6:00p @ Jessamine Extension	Jan 15-16	KCA Convention Owensboro Convention Center
Dec 13	Winter Feeding Field Day UK Research Center, Princeton KY	Jan 22	Jessamine County Beekeepers 6:00p @ Jessamine Extension (see flyer for details)
Dec 16	Jessamine County Cattlemen 6:30p @ Jessamine Extension		
Dec 24-Jan 2	Jessamine County Extension Office Closed for Christmas/New Year		

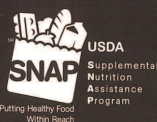
For more information on any of these programs, please contact the Jessamine County Extension Office



Healthy Recipe From Cook Wild Kentucky



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



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

Venison Chili

- 1 pound ground venison
- 1 large onion, chopped
- ½ green pepper, chopped
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 (16 ounces) can diced tomatoes
- 2 (16 ounces) cans chili beans, undrained
- 1 (8 ounces) can tomato sauce
- 1 bay leaf
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon cumin
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- Black pepper to taste

In a Dutch oven or large skillet, brown meat, onion, and green pepper in vegetable oil. Add remaining ingredients. Simmer 1 hour on low heat, stirring frequently. Remove bay leaf before serving.

Alternative to stove-top cooking: use slow cooker set on high for 4 hours

Yield: 10 servings

Adapted from Wild Game: From Field to Table, Sandra Bastin, PhD, RD, Extension Food and Nutrition Specialist. Revised July 2007

Nutrition Facts

10 servings per container
Serving size 1 cup (230g)

Amount per serving
Calories 190

	% Daily Value*
Total Fat 4.5g	6%
Saturated Fat 1g	5%
Trans Fat 0g	
Cholesterol 40mg	13%
Sodium 640mg	28%
Total Carbohydrate 20g	7%
Dietary Fiber 2g	7%
Total Sugars 4g	
Includes 0g Added Sugars	0%
Protein 16g	
Vitamin D 0mcg	0%
Calcium 67mg	6%
Iron 3mg	15%
Potassium 586mg	10%

* The % Daily Value (DV) tells you how much a nutrient in a serving of food contributes to a daily diet. 2,000 calories a day is used for general nutrition advice.



Upcoming Training Opportunities:

UK Beef Students' Educational Seminars

December 9th, 2025, 6:00p Dinner and 6:30 presentations start at the Jessamine County Extension Office. Pre-registration required.

See Page 1 for Registration Information. Meets CAIP Education Requirements

UK Beef Management Webinar Series

If you would like to register, please send an email to dbullock@uky.edu with Beef Webinar in the subject line and your name and county in the message.

All meeting times are 8:00pm ET and meets CAIP Education Requirements.

- December 11, 2025 Shooting the Bull: Answering all your Beef Related Questions! – Updates and Roundtable discussion with UK Specialists
 - January 8, 2026 Making the Most of the Good Years: Profits, Reinvestment, and Tax Management in Beef Cattle Operations – Jonathan Shepherd, Agricultural Extension Specialist, University of Kentucky
-

Winter Feeding Field Day

December 13, 2025, 10:00m – 12:00p CST at the UK Research and Education Center. 348 University Drive, Princeton, KY.

It's an excellent opportunity for producers to learn, ask questions, and connect with others who share the same goals for simplifying winter nutrition. The event is free to attend, but registration is requested to help organizers prepare for lunch. Register at <https://2025winterworkshop.eventbrite.com/>. Meets CAIP Education Requirements.

2026 Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference

The 2026 Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference will be Monday and Tuesday January 12-13, 2026 with pre-conference events on Sunday, Jan. 11 at the Sloan Convention Center in Bowling Green, KY. . This premier, state-wide event annually brings together approximately 600 growers, researchers, and technical support providers. The conference is devoted to fruit, vegetable, and cut flower production, handling, harvesting, marketing, storage, and related topics.

Registration info at: <https://kyhortcouncil.org/2026-kentucky-fruit-vegetable-conference/> Meets CAIP Education Requirements.

2026 KCA Convention

Kentucky Cattlemen Association Annual Convention and Trade Show.

January 15-16, 2026 at the Owensboro Convention Center

Registration and schedule at: <https://www.kycattle.org/kca-convention>. Meets CAIP Education Requirements.

How to Keep Your Livestock and Fields Safer from Mud



“As every livestock owner knows, mud is more than a nuisance. It robs animals of energy, wastes feed and tears up pasture.”

As every livestock owner knows, mud is more than a nuisance. It robs animals of energy, wastes feed and tears up pasture. The good news is that a few wise choices about location and surface design can turn the worst trouble spots into firm, drainable ground that holds up month after month.

Start with placement

Heavy-use areas — feeders, gates, mineral sites and waterers — are best when set on a slight rise, not in a “bottom” or along a ditch. When you place these hubs on higher ground, you deal only with the rain that falls there, not with water flowing through from the rest of the field. That single decision cuts most of the mud before it is able to form.

Build a layered pad

Under any rock or gravel, separate soil from stone with felt-like, non-woven, geotextile fabric. Overlap seams by a foot or two, lay it flat, then cover with compacted dense-grade aggregate. Go easy with the first lift so you don’t tear the fabric, then make sure it is well compacted. This simple fabric-plus-rock system spreads the load from hooves and traffic, sheds water and resists rutting. When the surface loosens with use, add a thin layer of stone and compact again.

Choose the right surface for the spot

Concrete earns its keep around waterers, feed bunks and scraping lanes. Give it a rough finish — rougher than a sidewalk — to protect hips and joints. Where you want gravel but need more stability, plastic paver grids (think shallow egg cartons) lock rock in place and stop sloppy areas before they begin. Budget-friendly reinforcements, like filling old tires or cinder

blocks with rock, can stiffen lanes and edges. Soil-cement can work for larger pads built in warm weather; use concrete where routine scraping is expected.

Daily habits that pay off

Keep hay off bare soil; once trampled into mud, it’s lost feed and a future weed patch. Scrape manure before it dissolves into sludge. Avoid driving heavy equipment across wet ground to reduce ruts that channel more water during the next rain. Give animals a firm path to and from water and feed so they don’t churn a single patch into soup. Where animals access a stream, build one armored entry or crossing rather than letting the whole bank break down.

Fixing cow paths

Grazing animals form contour trails (“cowtouring”) and single-file cow paths to save energy moving to water, feed and minerals. In wet weather, these routes can trough, erode, expose slick clay and become hard to traverse, especially on steeper slopes (cattle struggle above ~30%).

An all-weather path solves this by building a drainable base: excavate about eight inches, lay nonwoven geotextile, set recycled tire tread cylinders end-to-end in the trench and fill inside and around them with dense-grade aggregate. The tire tops finish at or just above grade. These paths provide firm footing year-round, cut energy costs for animals and protect fields from rutting and erosion.

Source: Dr. Steve Higgins, U.K. Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering



Horticulture Highlights!



Plant pun of the month: How do Christmas Trees check their email? They log on!

Hello from your Horticulture Tech! I hope everyone is having a happy holidays and a wonderful new year. This is my last horticulture highlights page because **starting February** I will be launching my own newsletter! Don't worry – if you are already subscribed to Ag Newsletter you will get a copy of my newsletter through email. I'm so excited to start this new journey with all of you!

Naomi Howell

Naomi Howell, Jessamine Co Horticulture Technician

Events this Month – Please call [859-885-4811](tel:859-885-4811) to sign up

- *Houseplant Series Unit 2: Houseplant Maintenance – Dec 4th 6:00pm
- *Houseplant series Unit 3: Pests or Nutrition Issues? – Dec 18th 6:00pm

*This is a series on houseplant care; you do NOT need to attend all classes in the series

American Mistletoe

American mistletoe (*Phoradendron leucarpum*) is an evergreen, woody shrub. Its genus name means "tree thief." It is partially parasitic; although it produces sugars through photosynthesis, it draws its water and mineral requirements from the tree on which it is growing.



Figure 1: Mistletoe Colony in Jessamine Co

American mistletoe can be found growing on many different types of hardwood trees including oaks, maples, walnuts and more. It typically blooms in the fall and early winter. Mistletoe is dioecious, meaning some

plants have only female flowers, while others only have male flowers. In the bluegrass you will most commonly see it growing high in the branches of black walnut trees. It can be found on many of our walnut trees in the Arboretum Woods and surrounding neighborhoods.

A variety of pollinators, including wasps, bees and ants, frequently visit mistletoe. Honeybees and native bees often collect nectar and pollen from the flowers. The ripe berries are quickly eaten by a wide variety of birds. It is also the only plant that the caterpillar of the great purple hairstreak butterfly will eat. In addition to the variety of food sources mistletoe provides, its dense, shrubby growth provides excellent habitat for many treetop animals.

American mistletoe is not a plant that you can cultivate in your yard. It either will show up on its own or will not. American mistletoe tends to grow in colonies; very large colonies may stunt the growth of the host. Most of the time it has very little effect on the health or longevity of the tree and offers numerous benefits to wildlife. *By Jesse Dahl, Senior Horticulturist at The Arboretum, State Botanical Garden of Kentucky*

APPLY FOR A BEGINNING FARMER SCHOLARSHIP!

Free registration for those farming
for less than 10 years

KENTUCKY
*Fruit & Vegetable
Conference* 2026

BOWLING GREEN, KY | JANUARY 11-13



KENTUCKY
*Fruit & Vegetable
Conference* 2026

BOWLING GREEN, KY | JANUARY 11-13
SLOAN CONVENTION CENTER

REGISTER
TODAY



<https://kentuckyhorticulturalscouncil.ticketspice.com/2026kyfvaattendee>



UK Beef Management Webinar Series

If you are interested and would like to be registered, send an email to dbullock@uky.edu with Beef Webinar Series in the Subject and your name and county in the message to receive a Zoom link and password. (If you have previously registered, you do not need to re-register). You will receive an invitation and password the morning of the presentation. Zoom will start at 8:00 Eastern/7:00 Central.



November 13

Winter Feeding Approaches: Matching Strategy to Your Herd and Resources - Dr. Katie VanValin, Assistant Professor, University of Kentucky



December 11

Shooting the Bull: Answering all your Beef-Related Questions! - Updates and Roundtable discussion



January 8

Making the Most of the Good Years: Profits, Reinvestment, and Tax Management in Beef Cattle - Jonathan Shepherd, Agricultural Extension Specialist, University of Kentucky



February 12

Impact of Bull Nutrition During Development on Semen Quality - Dr. Pedro Fontes, Associate Professor, University of Georgia



March 12

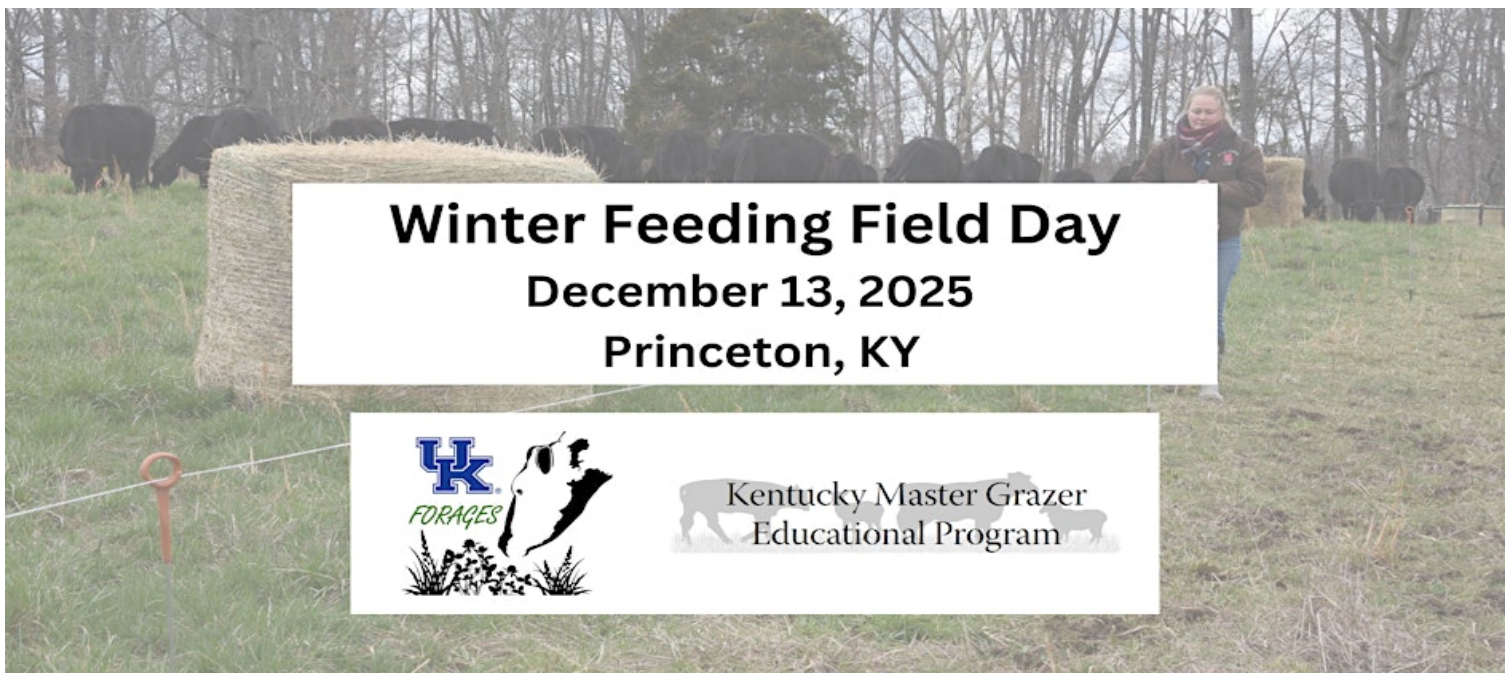
Bull Selection Practices in Kentucky: What are we Doing Right and What Could we Improve! - Dr. Darrh Bullock, Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

If you have any questions or need additional information please email dbullock@uky.edu. If you are already registered you will get a Zoom invitation the morning of each session with the link and password.

Winter Feeding Field Day December 13, 2025 Princeton, KY



Kentucky Master Grazer
Educational Program



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14

12:00-5:00 Trade Show Move-In

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

7:00-6:00 Registration Hours

8:00-10:00 Trade Show Move-In

9:00-12:00 Beef Efficiency Conference

11:00 Trade Show Opens
(exclusive Trade Show hours 12-2 & 4:30-6:30)

12:00 Welcome Lunch
(in Trade Show, sponsored by KBC)

12:20-2:30 Women's Session
(Ticket Required)

1:00-2:00 Barn Talk Session 1

2:00-4:00 Opening General Session

4:30-6:30 KCA Roundup Reception

6:30 Trade Show Closes

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

6:30-12:00 Registration Hours

6:30-8:00 President's Breakfast
(Invitation Only)

8:00 Trade Show Opens
(exclusive Trade Show hours 10-12)

8:00-10:00 Forages at KCA

8:30-9:00 KJCA Board of Directors Meeting
(2025 KJCA Board Members Only)

9:00-10:00 Who is the KJCA?

10:00-10:45 Trade Show Scavenger Hunt

10:00-11:00 Barn Talks Session 2

10:45-12:00 Alumni Town Hall

12:00 Trade Show Closes

12:00-2:30 Foundation Luncheon

2:30-3:30 Jeopardy Tournament

3:00-4:00 KJCA – Board of Directors Elections

3:15-4:00 Regional Meetings

4:00-5:30 Closing Business Session

KCA CONVENTION 2026 & AG INDUSTRY TRADE SHOW

JANUARY 15-16 • OWENSBORO

Early Bird Registration (October 15 - November 30) \$60
Registration (After November 30) = \$85

Event	Cost		Number Attending		Totals
Full Registration (Includes Trade Show and Business Meetings)	\$60	x		=	
Trade Show Only	\$25	x		=	
Junior Registration (21 years or younger)	\$25	x		=	

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

Foundation Luncheon	\$45	x		=	
choose one <input type="checkbox"/> Roast Beef <input type="checkbox"/> Chicken					
Foundation Lunch Table (preferred seating for up to 10)	\$500	x		=	
Ladies Program	\$50	x		=	
Total Amount Due					

Names as they should appear on badges.
Please only one family or individual per registration form.

NAME		NAME	
NAME		NAME	
ADDRESS		CITY, STATE ZIP CODE	
COUNTY (Required)		PHONE	
EMAIL			
CREDIT CARD TYPE	CREDIT CARD NO.		
EXPIRATION DATE	CVV	SIGNATURE	

REGISTER BEFORE DECEMBER 1 and be entered
to win one of two \$50 CABELA'S GIFT CARDS

Mail to: KCA Convention Registration
176 Pasadena Drive • Suite 4 • Lexington, Kentucky 40503
Or Fax: (859) 260-2060

Holiday Inn
\$134

270-683-1111x 0
Special Code: KCA
Group Rate Available: 12/23/2025

Hampton Inn
\$149

270-685-2005
Special Code: KentuckyCattlemen
Group Rate Available: 12/19/2025

Jessamine County Extension Service
333 Fairgrounds Way
Nicholasville, KY 40356

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



The Jessamine County hay producers who attended the Central Kentucky Hay Contest program in Fayette County. From Left: Kelsey Twehues, Tim Twehues, Travis Fritz, Cathy Fritz, Wayne Baker and Steve Musen