

GRAVES COUNTY AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWS

 **Martin-Gatton**
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
University of Kentucky.

GRAVES COUNTY COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION SERVICE
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MAYFIELD, KY 42066
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January 2024

IN THIS EDITION:

- Agent Notes
- Schedule of Events
- Announcements
- Crops
- Tobacco
- Livestock
- Horticulture
- Weather notes
- Miscellaneous



Happy New Year!

I hope that everyone had a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season and is looking forward to all of the possibilities that a new year brings. I am looking forward to moving into my second year of being your ANR agent and planning new and exciting programs for all of you.

It might be cold and dull outside in January, but we are going to be rocking and rolling here at the Graves County Extension Office! Now that I have a full year under my belt, I have a better idea of some of the programming needs in Graves County. I have been planning programs with these needs in mind and hope that you will be able to join us for some of them.

I know a major need has been educational programs that meet the CAIP education requirements for those who receive funds from that program.

Most of the programs I have listed meet that requirement!

If you need your private applicator licenses renewed, or are a new applicator, there are 4 chances over the next two months to get that out of the way before planting season. If you miss those sessions, you will have to come in and take the test in order to get your license (and take it from me, that test is no fun). If you attend the session, you do not have to take the test!

If you are a small ruminant producer that received CAIP funds, something new this year is that you must take Small Ruminant Quality Assurance in addition to the education requirement. Luckily, you have the opportunity to take SRQA here at the office with me on January 8th. There is a \$5 charge to get your certification so make sure to bring some cash along with you!

If you are interested in the travel opportunity to Alaska, please note that you must register by January 15th!

If you would like to see the itinerary or have any questions, just reach out and I'll be glad to fill you in. I went to Alaska this past summer and let me tell you, it is an experience you will never forget! We would love to have you join us this summer.

Make sure to scroll through all of the flyers shown throughout this newsletter and call to let us know which ones you plan to attend so that we can plan accordingly! As always, if you would like to suggest any programs for the future, I would love to hear them!

See you soon!



Miranda Rudolph

Extension Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources

Graves County

miranda.rudolph@uky.edu | 270.247.2334 | 270.978.7052



ANR: What's Happening?

Bolded events are hosted by the Graves County Extension Office.

- **January 8: Small Ruminant Quality Assurance Class, GCEO, 5:30pm** **needed if you receive CAIP funding for small ruminants**
- **January 11: Private Applicator Training, GCEO, 9am**
- **January 16: Land Rent Considerations, GCEO, 6pm**
- **January 18: Frost Seeding Forages, GCEO, 6pm**
- **January 25: Private Applicator Training, GCEO, 5:30pm**
- February 1: Winter Wheat Meeting, James E Bruce Convention Center, Hopkinsville KY
- **February 6: Private Applicator Training, GCEO, 9am**
- **February 6: Seed Swap and Gardening Class, GCEO 5:30pm**
- February 8: Kentucky Crop Health Conference, National Corvette Museum, Bowling Green, KY
- **February 22: Private Applicator Training, GCEO, 5:30pm**
- **February 26: GAP Training, GCEO, 2pm**
- **February 27: Master Logger “Logger Web TV” Training, GCEO, 9am-3pm** **Host site only, please sign up through Master Logger Program**



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Lexington, KY 40506



If you are receiving CAIP funds for small ruminant improvements, SRQA is REQUIRED!

\$5

**\$5 Fee
Required for
Certification**



Are you providing the highest quality small ruminant products to your customers?

Attend the training...

Graves Co. Extension Office

January 8, 2024

5:30pm

Increase your knowledge of best management practices necessary to insure your sheep and goat products are being marketed at the highest quality.

Assure healthy animals and practices for maximum profits and quality products.



Why should you participate in SRQA?

- To assure your product is not considered poor
- To show you value your animals' welfare and education for CAIP and quality in comparison to other products in the marketplace.
- To receive a Certificate useful in marketing
- To show you value your customer.
- Get 1.5 hours of education for CAIP and quality in comparison to other products in the marketplace.
- To receive a Certificate useful in marketing



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2024 WINTER AG CONFERENCE

“DRONES: FARMING ON THE FLY”

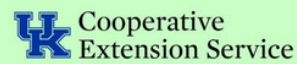
FEBRUARY 9, 2024

LOWRY FARMS

PILOT OAK, KY



KY & TN PESTICIDE
AND
CCA CEU'S PENDING



2024 Private Applicator Trainings

Graves County Extension Office

January 11 at 9am

January 25 at 5:30pm

February 6 at 9am

February 22 at 5:30pm

RSVP by calling 270-247-2334

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Sign-ups close January 15th!!

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 **Martin-Gatton**
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University of Kentucky.

North to Alaska

July 29th - Aug. 4th 2024

Agriculture & Cultural Tours

Join Marshall, McCracken, Calloway, Livingston and Graves County Agriculture Agents on a Agricultural and Cultural Trip to Alaska! This 7 day land excursion will take you as far south as Kenai Fjord and as far north as Fairbanks! Prices start at \$3,325 and do not include airfare.

Interested participants can request an informational packet from their county office, and are highly encouraged to attend the informational night held at the Marshall County Extension Office on December 18th, 2023 at 6pm. Trip registration is due by January 15th, a \$500 non-refundable deposit is due by January 30th and the final payment is due April 1st.



Culture

Enjoy scenic views as we travel across Alaska! Tour landmarks like Denali Park, Talkeeta, Kanai Fjord, and more! Travel by coastal train and board a day cruise to the famous Resurrection Bay. View jagged cliffs, marine life and alpine glaciers from the boat. Embrace the culture by tasting traditional Alaskan cuisine, staying at a famous historic hotel in Anchorage, or by embarking on an optional fishing trip or airplane glacier tour.



Agriculture

Explore Alaskan Agriculture! Enjoy touring farms and Alaskan industry! Tour a fruit and vegetable farm, fish hatchery, reindeer farm, birch tree syrup production facility, ox Farm, Alaskan brewery, Alaska Plant Materials Center, a shipping port & engage with an Alaska Extension Agent!

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FROST SEEDING FORAGES

JANUARY 18, 2024

6:00 PM

GRAVES COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

DR. CHRIS TEUTSCH, UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY FORAGE SPECIALIST, WILL BE WITH US TALKING ABOUT FROST SEEDING PASTURES AND DEMONSTRATING HOW TO CALIBRATE YOUR SEEDER.

A MEAL WILL BE PROVIDED.
PLEASE RSVP TO 270-247-2334

THIS PROGRAM MEETS CAIP EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS!

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Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.





Land Rental Considerations

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

6:00pm

Graves County Extension Office

Join us as Jennifer Rogers from Purchase Farm Analysis Group talks through what to consider when working through land rental agreements.

A meal will be provided!

Please RSVP to 270-247-2334 if you will be attending.



Cooperative Extension Service

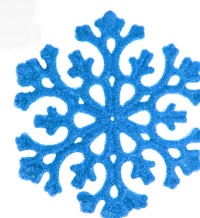
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2024 GAP TRAINING

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH AT 2PM

**GRAVES COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
4200 US HWY 45 N
MAYFIELD, KY**

RSVP TO 270-247-2334



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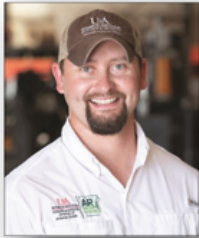
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KCHC Kentucky Crop Health Conference

Feb. 8, 2024 - National Corvette Museum - Bowling Green, Ky.

Speakers include University of Kentucky Extension Specialists and invited nationally prominent Extension Specialists from across the United States



Thomas Butts
University of Arkansas
Topic: Drone Herbicide Applications: What Do We Need to Know for Success?



Nicholas Seiter
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Topic: Above- and below- ground traits for insect management in corn – new tools, old pests, and resistance



Gregory Tylka
Iowa State University
Topic: Soybean Cyst Nematode: Past, present, and future

Carl Bradley
University of Kentucky

Topic: Red Crown Rot of Soybean: Disease Management and Potential Impacts of this New Disease on Soybean Production in Kentucky



Travis Legleiter
University of Kentucky
Topic: Dealing with the Stretch - Early Planted Soybean and Weed Control

Raul Villanueva
University of Kentucky

Topic: Abundance of Emergent Pests in the 2022-23 Corn and Soybean seasons in Kentucky



Kiersten Wise
University of Kentucky
Topic: It's always something! New corn disease concerns for Kentucky



Tickets on sale now - breakfast and lunch included
Conference sign-in begins at 8:30 a.m. CST

Scan QR Code or visit <https://kchc2024.eventbrite.com> (non-refundable after Jan. 25, 2024)

CREDITS — CCA: 5 CEUs, IPM — PAT: 6 CEUs Category 1A (Ag Plant); 1 CEU Category 11 (Aerial)



Timely Tips

Dr. Les Anderson, Beef Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

Spring Calving Herd

- Be sure that weaned heifer calves are on a feeding program that will enable them to be at about 65% of their mature weight before the start of the breeding season. Rations should be balanced to achieve gains sufficient to get heifers from their current weight to that “target” weight.
- Body condition is important, plan an adequate winter program for cows to be at least body condition score 5 (carrying enough flesh to cover the ribs) before the calving and breeding season. This will help them to breed early in the spring. Thin cows should be fed to regain body condition prior to winter. Don’t let cows lose weight/condition. Supplementation will most likely be needed. Find low-cost supplemental feeds to meet the nutrient needs of cattle.
- Divide the herd into groups for winter feeding
 - weaned heifer calves
 - first-calf heifers, second-calvers and thin mature cows
 - the remainder of the dry cows which are in good body condition
 - herd sires
- Begin feeding the lowest quality forage to dry cows which are in good condition during early winter and save the best hay for calving time or for weaned calves.
- Order and number ear tags for next year’s calf crop this winter. It is also a good time to catch up on freeze branding and replacing lost ear tags.

Fall Calving Herd

- Get breeding supplies together, if using estrous synchronization and/or A.I.
- Have Breeding Soundness Evaluation (BSE) performed on bulls (even if you used them this spring).
- The fall breeding season starts. Breeding can best be accomplished on stockpiled fescue pasture; otherwise, cows with calves should be fed 25-30 pounds of good quality hay or its equivalent. Supplement with grain, if needed, and minimize hay waste. **DON’T ALLOW THESE COWS** Cooperative Extension Service University of Kentucky Beef IRM Team Each article is peer-reviewed by UK Beef IRM Team and edited by Dr. Les Anderson, Beef Extension Specialist, Department of Animal & Food Science, University of Kentucky **TO LOSE BODY CONDITION PRIOR TO OR DURING THE BREEDING SEASON.** It is easy to wait too long to start winter feeding. Don’t do it unless you have stockpiled fescue.
- Nutrition level of cows during the first 30 days after conception is critical. Pay attention.
- Observe performance of bulls during breeding season. Watch cows for return to estrus, if you see several in heat, try to determine the cause and consider changing bulls.

General

- Complete soil testing pasture to check for fertility and pH.
- Consider putting down geotextile fabric and covering with gravel in feeding areas before you begin hay feeding to minimize waste of expensive hay. Or, perhaps, construct concrete feeding pads for winter feeding areas.
- Monitor body condition and increase feed, if needed, for all classes of cattle.



With Care Some Holiday Plants Can Brighten Your Home Throughout the Year

Rick Durham, Extension Professor, Department of Horticulture

The colorful plants you enjoy during the holidays can linger beyond the season. If you care for them, they may become a welcome addition to your houseplant collection.

Traditional Christmas plants, such as poinsettia, holiday cactus, Christmas pepper, kalanchoe, Jerusalem cherry or cyclamen, require a bright, sunny location in the home. Regular thorough watering whenever the soil is dry is also very important. A sunny location and regular watering are enough for these plants throughout December, but they will need more specialized care if you plan for them flower again next year.

In January, decide whether to keep or discard your holiday plants. That decision is easy for Christmas pepper, Jerusalem cherry and chrysanthemum because they will not flower again in the home environment.

Holiday cactus, kalanchoe, or cyclamen can remain colorful through February with proper care. You may even keep them as houseplants after February if you provide the correct conditions. Holiday cacti are relatively easy to grow while kalanchoes and cyclamen are more difficult. While poinsettias may continue growing, they are difficult to bring into flower for the next holiday season and are best discarded.

The major difference you'll see in your holiday plant after a year will be its size. If you are successful, you may have plants with 40 to 50 flowers from the same plant that had only six to eight flowers the previous year. Holiday cacti with many flowers will be two to five times as large next year. Kalanchoe will also increase in size while cyclamen tend to stay compact.

For this season's poinsettias, choose plants with small, tightly clustered yellow buds in the center of the colorful leaf-like bracts commonly referred to as the flowers. Look for crisp, undamaged foliage. Water the plant when it feels dry and discard excess water in the saucer under the plant. Place the plant in a bright, naturally lit location with some direct sunlight. Keep the plant out of drafty areas and away from heat-producing appliances. After a few weeks, apply houseplant fertilizer according to the label directions. The colorful bracts may stay nice into January and February.

If you're wanting to make your poinsettia last, remove the faded flowers, bracts and dry leaves around St. Patrick's Day. Add more soil if the level in the pot seems low and fertilize again. Move the plant to the brightest window in your house; full sun is fine if you gradually allow the plant to adjust to higher light.

Around Mother's Day, your plant could be approaching three feet tall. Trim two to six inches off the branches to promote side branching. Repot in a larger container and move the plant outside to a location that receives full sun for at least six hours daily. Again, gradually introduce the plant to full sun and start in a shady area. Over a few weeks, gradually move the plant to higher light conditions. Fertilize the plant again in June. Trim your poinsettia again around July 4 and slightly increase the amount of fertilizer. Fertilize weekly August through September.

By Labor Day, the plant could be 3-5 feet tall. Prune it to a height of 18-24 inches. This will be your last chance to reduce the height. Around the first day of fall, Sept. 22, selectively remove the smallest new branches so that only 10-25 stems remain to produce flowers. This is also the time to move the plant indoors. The plant will need about 14 hours of uninterrupted darkness and 10 hours of bright sunlight daily. For example, place the plant in a light-free closet or under a box at 6 p.m. each evening and return it to the sunny window at 8 a.m. You can also place the plant in a little used south facing room, and do not turn the lights on from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. daily. Any day you forget and accidentally turn the lights on will cause a delay in flowering.

Continue to water and apply fertilizer about every two weeks. Rotate the plant each day to give all sides even light. If the window does not get direct sun, you can supplement the daytime light with fluorescent or LED lights, but turn them off by 6 p.m.

Around Halloween, stop the day/night, light/dark treatment and keep the plant in a sunny area. Reduce fertilizer applications. The plant can remain in its usual full sun location as the upper leaves (bracts) turn red, pink or white. During November and December, fertilize every three weeks and water regularly. Next Christmas enjoy your beautiful "new" poinsettia.

For information about extending other holiday plants, visit

<https://www.uky.edu/hort/sites/www.uky.edu/hort/files/documents/christmasflowers.pdf>.

For more information on horticulture topics, contact your Graves County Extension office.





Forecasting Winter Storms- What a Headache!



Tony Edwards- National Weather Service, Charleston, WV

When I was a child - probably by around 7 years old - I knew I wanted to be a meteorologist. I was infatuated with the weather. To my mother's dismay, The Weather Channel was a mainstay on our TV and I even kept a log of the weather each day. My uncle worked for the Department of Highways and had to drive a snow plow each winter. I loved winter, he hated it. I remember one conversation with him distinctly. He told me that when I grew up to be a meteorologist, he wanted me to get all of the meteorologists in the area on the same page with forecasting winter storms. He was so tired of watching the different "opinions" of how much snow we were going to get on each evening TV weather broadcast. For him, the differing opinions made it very hard to do his job. I'm sure many others around our region also wonder "why is it so hard to forecast how much snow is going to fall?"

Forecasting snow amounts is one of the hardest things we have to do as meteorologists. First off, we have to get the temperature forecast right. Not just the temperature at the surface, where there's plenty of thermometers, but we also have to forecast the temperature accurately throughout the atmosphere up through the cloud layer. There are very few ways to get accurate temperature measurements above the ground, so we have to rely on imperfect computer models for this part of the forecast. The temperature and how it varies from inside the clouds down to the ground determines the consistency of the snow, or how wet and sticky vs. dry and fluffy it is. We also have to accurately forecast how much liquid will fall during the storm. For instance, 0.5 inches of liquid vs. 0.7 inches could make the difference of several inches of snow in some cases. This is probably the second hardest thing we have to do! Finally, we have to get the storm track correct. A low-pressure system tracking as little as 25 miles off course can mean the difference between a foot of snow or no snow for your location! All of these are important considerations for a forecast just featuring snow. It gets exponentially MORE complicated if the forecast includes other types of precipitation such as freezing rain or sleet. All of these variables create uncertainty in the forecast and, unfortunately, humans aren't the best at dealing with uncertainty.

It's been at least 30 years since I had that conversation with my uncle and unfortunately, I've failed him miserably! He still has to wade through differing opinions on how much snow is going to fall when he gets his forecast information. To be honest, the atmosphere is just too complicated and we may never be able to completely accurately forecast winter storms. Despite the complications, we can still plan for the possible impacts. Here's a few tips to help you be as prepared as possible when snow is forecast:

- When the weather forecast REALLY matters, don't rely on a phone app! Get your forecast from a local source, whether it be from the National Weather Service or your local TV meteorologist. The forecast from most apps is computer-model generated with no local human input. That's fine for figuring out if you need to wear a coat, but not for when your life could depend on it!
- If you see vastly different opinions on how much snow is expected for your location, then you can guess that it's just a complicated forecast and plan for the worst-case scenario you hear. If you flip through the channels and see all of the meteorologists having the same opinion on how much snow will fall and the timing, you can have more confidence in the forecast.
- Finally, put together an Emergency Kit for your home and automobile. You'll at least want 72 hours of food, water and prescriptions in your home kit and some basic tools and supplies for your automobile. Check out [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) for some great ideas on what to include in those kits.





Greek Style Spaghetti Squash

1 spaghetti squash (2-3 pounds)	2 cloves garlic, minced	¼ teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons olive oil	1 cup fresh spinach leaves	2 tablespoons chopped fresh basil
1 cup chopped onion	1½ cups chopped tomatoes	¾ cup crumbled low-fat feta cheese
¼ cup chopped green bell pepper	1 teaspoon dried oregano	
	1 teaspoon lemon no-salt seasoning blend	

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. **Prepare** the squash by carefully **cutting** it in half lengthwise with a sharp knife and **scooping** out the seeds. **Place** on a lightly greased baking sheet, cut-side down and **bake** for 30 to 35 minutes, or until a sharp knife can be easily inserted into the rind. **Remove** the squash from the oven and allow to **cool**. When cooled, use a fork to **scrape** out the stringy flesh from the shell and **place** in a colander. **Press** out as much liquid as possible. **Place** squash in a medium bowl and keep warm. **Heat** the oil in a skillet over medium heat. **Sauté** the

onion and bell pepper until tender. **Add** the garlic and continue to **cook** 2-3 minutes. **Add** the spinach; allow to wilt. **Stir** in tomatoes and **cook** until tomatoes are heated through. **Toss** the cooked vegetables with the warm spaghetti squash. **Stir** in seasonings, basil, and feta cheese. **Serve** warm.

Yield: 8, ½ cup servings

Nutritional Analysis: 120 calories, 6 g fat, 2 g saturated fat, 5 mg cholesterol, 280 mg sodium, 14 g carbohydrate, 3 g fiber, 6 g sugars, 4 g protein.

Kentucky Spaghetti Squash

SEASON: August through October.

NUTRITION FACTS: Squash is low in calories. One cup raw squash contains 42 calories. It contains vitamin C, potassium and calcium. It is naturally free of fat and cholesterol.

SELECTION: Choose squash that is a creamy to deep yellow in color. Look for hard skinned, evenly colored squash without blemishes or ridges. Avoid squash that are tinged with green as they are not mature.

STORAGE: Spaghetti squash can be stored at room temperature for up to one

month. Longer if stored in a cool, dry, dark location. Do not wash before storing.

PREPARATION:

To Bake: Pierce holes in the squash and place in a baking dish. Bake at 350 degrees F for one hour or until the skin gives easily under pressure and the inside is tender. Cool for 10 to 15 minutes.

To Microwave: Pierce holes in the squash and microwave on high for 10 to 12 minutes. Let stand 5 minutes.

Halve squash lengthwise and discard seeds. Shred squash with a fork and serve.

KENTUCKY SPAGHETTI SQUASH

Kentucky Proud Project

County Extension Agents for Family and Consumer Sciences

University of Kentucky, Dietetics and Human Nutrition students

October 2016

Source: www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov

Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers' market, or roadside stand. <http://plateitup.ca.uky.edu>



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