GRAVES COUNTY AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWS

May 2025

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

GRAVES COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
4200 US HWY 45
MAYFIELD, KY 42066
(270)247-2334
GRAVES.EXT@UKY.EDU

IN THIS EDITION:

Agent Notes

May 2025

One look outside tells you it's a busy time of year! Tractors are all up and down the road, so please be patient and mindful of their presence!

Gardens are getting in full swing and we are looking towards summer programming. If you're looking for things to keep you busy this summer, look no further than our office! We have something for just about everyone.

I have had a lot of requests for classes surrounding self-sufficiency skills. We just talked about Victory Gardens and next up we are going to be building tabletop herb planters...with saws and everything!

Make sure to stop by the opening of our new farmer's market on Saturday the 3rd! The folks involved have worked very hard for several years to get this up and going. It's going to be great! Don't forget about the Laurel Oak Garden Club Plant Sale- just in time for Mother's Day!

Find us on Facebook

Miranda Rudolph
Extension Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources
Graves County
miranda.rudolph@uky.edu | 270.247.2334 | 270.978.7052

Upcoming Events:

- May 3 - Opening day of Mayfield Downtown Farmers Market
- May 10 - Laurel Oak Garden Club Plant Sale - Graves Co. Extension
- May 13 - Wheat Field Day 9am - Caldwell Co. Extension
- May 15 - KATS Crop Scouting Clinic - UKREC
- May 20 - Herb Garden Planter Workshop - Graves Co. Extension
- May 29 - Alpha-gal Syndrome Webinar 6pm - See flyer below!

Announcements

May 2025

2025 WHEAT FIELD DAY

Wheat Science Group | Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment | Grain and Forage Center of Excellence

MAY 13, 2025

TOPICS INCLUDE:

CURRENT WHEAT CROP UPDATE
Dr. Chad Lee & Dr. Mohammad Shamim

SULFUR FOR WHEAT: PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE
Dr. Edwin Ritchey

OPTIMAL N FOR 2025 - Dr. John Grove

2025/26 WHEAT OUTLOOK - Dr. Grant Gardner

RESIDUAL HERBICIDES FOR MANAGEMENT OF FALL AND SPRING EMERGING ITALIAN RYEGRASS
Dr. Travis Legleiter

MANAGEMENT OF IMPORTANT WHEAT DISEASES
Dr. Heather Kelly (University of Tennessee)

UPDATES ON OCCURRENCES OF APHIDS, HESSIAN FLIES, AND FALL ARMYWORMS IN 2024-25
Dr. Raul Villanueva

BREEDING FOR SCAB RESISTANCE IN SOFT RED WINTER WHEAT
Dr. Dave Van Sanford & Maggie Gillum

VARIETY TRIAL WALK THROUGH

UKREC Farm
1205 Hopkinsville St., Princeton KY 42445

9:00am - 12:00pm CT
Registration 8:30 am

LUNCH SPONSORED BY
KENTUCKY Small Grain GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

EDUCATIONAL CREDITS:

CCA Credits:
IPM: 1 HR
Crop Mgmt: 1.5 HR

PESTICIDE CREDITS:
1 CEU for Cat 1a
1 CEU for Cat 10

Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment | Cooperative Extension Service | MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

Cooperative Extension Service

Webinar Event

Living with

Alpha-gal Syndrome

Learn more about AGS (red meat allergy) and how to reduce your risk with University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension

Topics Covered

- AGS basics
- Tick bite prevention
- Diet & lifestyle management
- Q/A session

Thursday, May 29th
6-7:30pm CDT
7-8:30pm EDT

Register Now!
ukfcs.net/AgS

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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Lexington, KY 40506

Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

Laurel Oak Garden Club Members' Plant Sale

Saturday, May 10, 2025

9:00am- 11:00am

Location:
Graves County Extension Office
4200 US-45, Mayfield, KY

Come and Shop for:
Healthy Outdoor Plants,
Yard Art, Growing Tips, and
Perfect Mother's Day Gifts

KENTUCKY

KATS Kentucky Agriculture Training School

2025 CROP SCOUTING CLINIC

IDEAL FOR AGRICULTURE INTERNS, NEW AND EXPERIENCED PRODUCERS, AS WELL AS A GREAT REFRESHER FOR OTHERS

- Corn and soybean diseases and growth staging
- Scouting for insect pests of corn and soybeans
- Weed ID
- Soil nutrients and their influence on crop growth

MAY 15, 2025
8:30AM TO 3:30 PM
UK RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CENTER PRINCETON, KY

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED AT
2025KATSCROPSCOUTINGCLINIC.EVENTBRITE.COM

For More Information contact Lori Rogers
270-365-7541 lori.rogers@uky.edu

CCA: 6.5 CEUs
PAT: 5 CUEs cat. 1A, 1 CEU cat. 10

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Announcements

May 2025

Cooperative Extension Service

Herb Garden Planter Workshop

May 20, 2025

5:30pm

$10

Want to learn a few basic carpentry skills? Build your own planter box to create a tabletop herb garden! Class size is limited to 10 participants!

CLOSE-TOED SHOES REQUIRED

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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Lexington, KY 40506

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Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources

EXTENSION EXHIBITS

Farm and Garden

FIELD
SEED
GRAIN

FRUITS
VEGETABLES
PLANTS
FLOWERS

HONEY
SORGHUM
EGGS

ENTRY CHECK IN	LOCATION	ENTRY CHECK OUT
TUESDAY, JUNE 10 9:00 - 11:00 AM EXPO 1	GRAVES COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS 1004 KY-121 MAYFIELD, KY 42066	FRIDAY, JUNE 13 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM EXHIBITS WILL BE ON DISPLAY AT OUR OFFICE WED-FRI 8AM-4:30PM

*premium money will be mailed within two weeks

printed rules are available at the Graves County Extension Office or find them online http://graves.ca.uky.edu

An Equal Opportunity Organization

Graves County Extension Office

Kentucky Agriculture Training School 2025 Schedule

March 20: Drone Sprayer Training

This class is designed for agricultural professionals and producers to learn about dispensing fungicides with drone sprayers, nozzle selection and droplet sizes, and information for certified commercial/non-commercial and private applicators.

April 10: Soil Properties Workshop (Richmond, KY)

We will examine soil pits with distinctly different profile properties to discuss how they will influence water and nutrient retention and delivery.

May 15: Crop Scouting Workshop

Training is comprised of individual scouting sessions in the areas of disease, growth staging, weed identification, and soil nutrition. This is a beneficial workshop for new and experienced producers, agriculture interns as well as a great refresher for others.

June (TBD): Planter Clinic

Review and identify consequences on plant performance that resulted from improper planter settings.

July 24: KY High School Crop Scouting Competition

Teams of 4-6 students will compete in hands-on, interactive field scouting exercises related to corn, soybean and tobacco rotating through various stations.

August 28: Field Crop Pest Management and Spray Clinic

A hands-on workshop that will cover spray technology, fungicide application, herbicide symptomology, and more.

For information and registration for KATS Workshops visit kats.ca.uky.edu or contact Lori Rogers lori.rogers@uky.edu 270-365-7541 ext 21317.

Better Pastures Equals Healthier Herds

Source: Christopher Teutsch, UK Extension Associate Professor and Forage Specialist

Rotational stocking, often referred to as rotational grazing, is a powerful technique that can bring a range of benefits to all types of livestock as well as the land. By dividing large pastures into smaller paddocks and moving animals through them on a planned schedule, farmers can give each grazed area a rest period, allowing for regrowth of leaf area lost to grazing and replenishment of stored carbohydrates that were utilized to fuel regrowth. When producers shift from continuous grazing to a rotational system, they often see dramatic improvements in pasture productivity, soil health and even animal behavior.

One of the primary advantages of rotational grazing is enhanced pasture productivity. When animals graze one paddock at a time and then move on, the plants in the grazed paddock have a chance to rebound. During this rest period, forage plants can restore their carbohydrate reserves and recover more completely from being grazed. This not only boosts the quantity of forage available over time but also maintains better and more consistent nutritional quality. In contrast, continuous grazing—where livestock stay in the same pasture all season—often leads to overgrazing, weaker plants that are more susceptible to stresses and progressively lower yields.

Improved nutrient distribution is another significant plus. Rotating animals means they spread manure evenly around the paddocks rather than depositing it heavily in just a few favorite areas (like watering or resting spots). Because manure is a natural fertilizer, more uniform distribution helps replenish the soil and encourages consistent plant growth. A continuous grazing system, on the other hand, may result in “hot spots” of manure accumulation. This concentrated nutrient load can negatively impact both plant growth and the environment around those areas.
A well-managed rotational grazing system also offers increased drought tolerance. With planned rest periods, plants develop deeper, stronger root systems. These robust roots allow the plants to access water further below the surface, which can be crucial during dry spells. In a continuously grazed pasture, plants rarely get the downtime they need to fully recover, leaving them more vulnerable to stress when rainfall is scarce. As a result, fields under rotational management often grow longer into drought periods and recover faster when conditions improve.

Another practical benefit of rotational stocking is easier animal handling. When paddocks are set up with well-designed lanes and strategically placed water sources, moving livestock becomes more straightforward. In addition, more frequent contact with animals allows livestock to associate human interaction with something positive…fresh grass. This greatly reduces the stress and chaos commonly associated with animal handling in open pastures. Properly placed lanes can also help control erosion, ensuring that foot traffic and machinery movement do not damage sensitive areas of the pasture.

Rotational stocking can be a game-changer for anyone looking to optimize pasture health and livestock performance. By giving plants time to recover, distributing nutrients more evenly, building drought resilience and streamlining animal handling, rotational grazing can deliver long-lasting improvements to farm operations. Whether you’re raising cattle, sheep, goats or other grazing animals, this strategy can help you optimize productivity and at the same time protect land and water resources for future generations.

Contact your local Graves County Extension office for more information on how to maintain healthy pastures.

Don’t Chase Price per Pound at the Expense of Value per Head

Dr. Kenny Burdine, University of Kentucky

Over the last few months, I have been able to talk with a lot of cattle producers at Extension programs. As you can imagine, the strength of the cattle market is almost always the first topic of discussion. We Graze winter annuals. Flash graze paddocks that were frosted with clover. Allow calves and lambs to creep graze. As pasture growth begins, rotate through pastures quickly to keep up with initial growth. As pasture exceeds the needs of grazing livestock, remove some pastures from the rotation and allow growth to accumulate for hay or silage harvest. Get equipment ready to harvest hay at the late boot stage to early head stage top optimize yield and forage quality. Determine the need for and prepare to plant warm-season annuals. are seeing prices like we have never seen before for cattle of all types and weights. But my observation has been that producers tend to become a bit more enamored than they should with price per pound and sometimes don’t think as much as they should about value per head.

I see this play itself out in a couple ways. First, I hear some producers talk about selling cattle sooner to capture the higher prices. I don’t necessarily think that downside price risk is greater in high priced markets, but I think there is a perception among some that there may be “more to lose”. This perception lowers interest in adding value to cattle by taking them to higher weight before sale and leads to more calves being sold off the cow, as opposed to being weaned and preconditioned.

Secondly, I think people get too focused on price per pound differences across weight categories and don't make the mental adjustment to the new price environment. To illustrate this point, I am going to use Kentucky average auction prices from the last week of March. The table below shows the average price for medium / large frame #1-2 steers at 450 lbs, 550 lbs, and 650 lbs. For transparency, I am using the average prices for cattle without a description (not value-added or fancy), which represents most cattle being sold. Also, I am averaging the 50 lb weight ranges to arrive at my average price. In other words, the estimated price per lb for a 450 lb steer is the average of the 400 to 450 lb and 450 to 500 lb weight ranges.

Examine the average prices from Kentucky last week in the table for 450 and 550 lb steers. The price per pound drops by $0.50 on that 100 lb increase in weight. If one looks solely at price per lb, they may be tempted to sell calves sooner and avoid the $0.50 slide. However, in this cattle price environment, those 550 lb steers were still worth $113 per head more than the 450 lb steers. The relevant question becomes whether that difference justifies keeping those 450 lb steers longer. In many cases, the answer to that question may be yes, especially in the spring with pasture starting to grow.

To be fair, cattle prices are extremely high by historical standards. Price slides widen as the overall market gets higher and we have never seen a calf market this high. What may have seemed like a bizarre price slide a few years ago, may make perfect sense now. For example, if 450 lb steers were selling for $2 per lb and we applied the same $0.50 price slide for 550 lb steer, that 550 lb steer at $1.50 per lb is actually worth $75 less than the 450 lb steer at $2. But that is irrelevant in the current market.

The main point is that the spring 2025 feeder cattle price environment is like nothing we have seen before. Given that, we must be careful about using rules of thumb and simple approaches that may have worked in the past. Focusing on price per lb, without consideration of weight impacts, can be very misleading. And one needs to be careful they aren’t chasing price per lb at the expense of value per head!

Kentucky Strawberry Growers at Risk for Neopestalotiopsis Disease

Source: Kentucky Pest News

By: Nicole Gauthier, Plant Pathology Extension Specialist

In late August, Neopestalotiopsis disease was confirmed in strawberry cuttings across Kentucky. Some cuttings showed symptoms quickly, while others developed symptoms several days after becoming infected.

Neopestalotiopsis disease is caused by a fungus that can infect both cuttings and mature plants. Symptoms can range from leaf spots (Figure 1) to crown and root rots to fruit infections (Figure 2). The pathogen overwinters in debris and as melanized spores in soil. Once introduced to fields, it can survive 3 to 5 years.

Figure 1: Neopestalotiopsis leaf spots symptoms. (Photo: P. Brannen, University of Georgia)

Figure 2: Neopestalotiopsis fruit rot symptoms. (Photo: N. Peres, University of Florida)

Symptoms

Symptoms on leaves begin as light-colored spots with dark borders; spots expand rapidly to cause blighting and plant dieback. Leaf symptoms are easily confused with strawberry leaf spot and strawberry leaf blight. Fruit symptoms begin as tan lesions that turn orange and sunken. Fruit become mummified and develop large black fruiting bodies. Fruit symptoms can resemble anthracnose fruit rot. Symptoms progress rapidly under warm, humid conditions (68 to 85°F, 90 to 100% RH).

Spores are spread short distances by water splash and long distances by movement of infected plants. In Kentucky, Neopestalotiopsis disease was introduced by rooted cuttings and propagation material.

Management

- Avoid planting symptomatic plants or those sourced from a supplier with a history of Neopestalotiopsis disease.
- Infected plants **cannot be cured**.
- If you have been contacted by your cutting producer regarding potential infection, it is recommended to destroy plants immediately.
- Take extra caution to sanitize surfaces and tools. Avoid tracking soil/media to clean greenhouses and fields. The following resources provide additional information on best practices for sanitation.
  - Fruit and Orchard Sanitation (PPFS-GEN-05)
  - Greenhouse Sanitation (PPFS-GH-04)
  - Cleaning and Disinfesting Commercial Greenhouse Surfaces (PPFS-GH-07)
- Growers who need disease confirmation should work through their local Extension agent for diagnostic sample submission.
- Fungicides Switch and Thiram can suppress disease, but research trials have documented only 50% effectiveness in the highest rated spray treatments.
- Healthy plants can be protected with Switch, Bravo, or one of the fungicides listed in the *Southeast Regional Strawberry IPM Guide*.
- Organic producers should protect healthy plants with a rotation of Serenade Opti and Actigard. Organic management options are limited.
-

Additional Resources

- Neopestalotiopsis Disease of Strawberry (PPFS-FR-S-12)
- Southeast Regional Strawberry IPM Guide (Link)
- Neopestalotiopsis disease in strawberry: what do we know? (Southern Region Small Fruit Consortium)
- Pestalotia Leaf Spot and Fruit Rot of Strawberry (University of Florida)

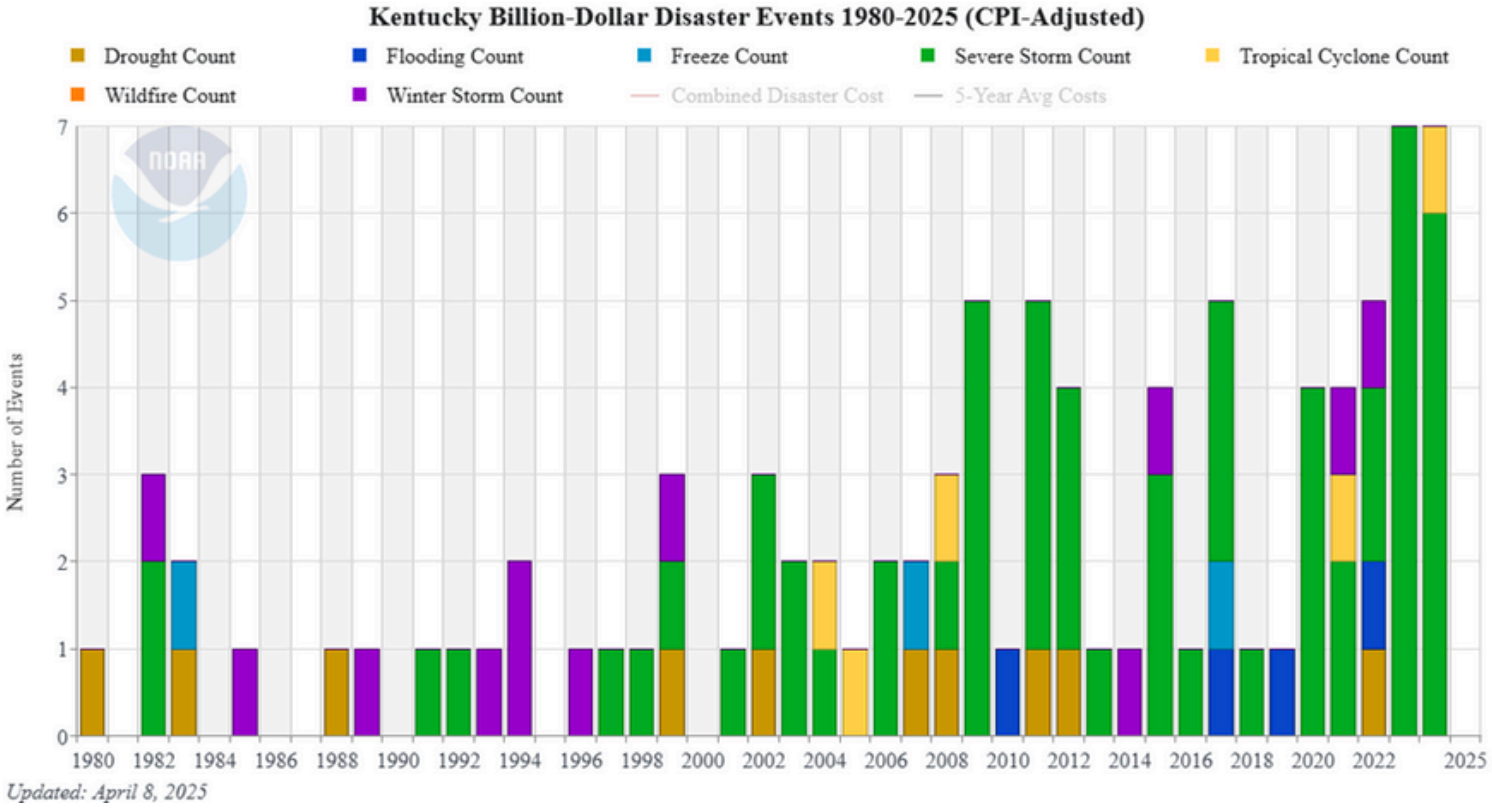
Unlucky Kentucky?

By Jane Marie Wix - National Weather Service Jackson, KY

This article was originally supposed to be centered around flash flooding safety - but I think the state has seen its fair share of both flash and river flooding over these past few months. Does it ever feel like Kentucky needs a break from all this crazy and impactful weather!? It seems like if one side of the state isn't being impacted, the other side is. Just since February, Kentucky has seen a major flash flood event, an impactful snow storm, another historic river flooding event, and a tornado/severe thunderstorm outbreak. I'm likely missing some smaller events that occurred in between as well.

If you're thinking that the amount of impactful weather events has gone up - you aren't wrong! In fact, a recent Acuweather article renamed us as "Unlucky Kentucky". Between tornadoes, flash flooding, river flooding, winter storms, ice storms, and high wind events - we've seen just about every weather type over the last few years. We even had widespread damage on the eastern side of the state due to the remnants of a hurricane (Irene) last fall!

In just the last two years, the state has been part of 14 separate billion-dollar disasters, according to NOAA (https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/mapping) with 2023 and 2024 tying for the highest number on record since tracking began in 1980. That's not taking into account any of the historic flooding and severe weather that has taken place so far in April, which impacted large portions of this state and neighboring states.



A study published in the journal "npj Climate and Atmospheric Science" in 2018 showed that the ingredients required for producing long-lived tornadoes were flourishing more in the Mississippi River Valley in the last 20 years, compared to parts of the original "Tornado Alley". In other words, "Tornado Alley" once located through the Great Plains is shifting south and east, and it now includes parts of western Kentucky.

On the east side of the state, residents are well aware that so long as heavy rains occur in the hills of eastern Kentucky, so too will the flash flood threat. And while it is harder to get tornadoes in the mountains, recent history shows us that even the mountains can't protect us when Mother Nature decides to intervene. The heavily forested areas of this area of the state can also be prone to forest fires when dry periods and droughts occur, especially when coupled with high winds.

One of the main reasons we started creating these articles is to help people in communities across Kentucky become more weather aware and weather prepared in the face of these events. Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that these large-scale/high-impact events will be letting up any time soon. While we all agree we need a break after these last few years, ultimately the weather is out of anyone's control. So the best thing we can do is try to become more resilient in the face of these disasters.

Kentucky Weather Alert App

This ad-free app from the UK Ag Weather Center is an excellent resource for staying safe and informed. It provides daily and hourly forecasts, high-resolution radar, National Weather Service alerts sent directly to your phone, and a link to this update. Without any distracting ads, this app can act as another reliable warning source during tonight's severe weather. Be sure to check it out by scanning or clicking the QR codes below to download the app on both iOS and Google Play platforms

WEATHER ALERT

ALERTS FORECASTS AGRICULTURE

Strawberry Salsa

1 tablespoon olive oil

2 tablespoons white vinegar or white balsamic vinegar

½ teaspoon salt

2 cups, coarsely chopped fresh strawberries

8 green onions, chopped

2 cups chopped cherry or grape tomatoes

½ cup chopped fresh cilantro

1. **Whisk** olive oil, vinegar, and salt in large bowl.
2. **Add** strawberries, green onions, tomatoes, and cilantro. Toss to coat.
3. **Cover** and chill for 1 hour.
4. Serve with tortilla or pita chips.

Yield: 7, ½ cup servings.

Nutrition Analysis: *40 calories; 2 g fat; 0 g saturated fat; 0 mg cholesterol; 170 mg sodium; 6 g carbohydrate; 1 g fiber; 4 g sugar; 1 g protein; 60% of vitamin C.*

Source: www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov

Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers' market, or roadside stand.

Kentucky Proud.

Kentucky Strawberries

SEASON: May through June

NUTRITION FACTS: Strawberries are low in calories and high in nutrients. One cup strawberries contain 55 calories. Strawberries are a great source of vitamin C. They also contain vitamin A, iron, fiber, and folic acid. Folic Acid is especially important for childbearing women. When consumed in adequate amounts, it has been proven to prevent certain birth defects.

SELECTION: Choose fully ripened, bright red berries. Strawberries do not ripen after they have been picked. Berries should be plump and have a natural shine with bright green, fresh looking caps. Use strawberries as soon after picking as possible for the best flavor and highest nutritional value.

STORAGE: Store strawberries in the refrigerator, covered, unwashed, with the caps on. Do not crowd. If you have the space, gently spread the berries on a cookie sheet and cover with plastic wrap. Use berries within 2 to 3 days.

HANDLING: Handle strawberries gently. Never remove the caps before washing. The cap prevents water from soaking into the berry, which lessens the flavor and changes the texture. To wash, cover berries in cold water and lift gently out of the water to drain. Dry by placing berries in a single layer on paper towels.

After washing, remove the caps if necessary. Give the cap a gentle twist or use the point of a sharp paring knife or pointed spoon.

Pat berries dry with paper towels before serving whole or sliced, fresh or cooked.

STRAWBERRIES

Kentucky Proud Project

County Extension Agents for Family and Consumer Sciences

University of Kentucky, Nutrition and Food Science students

March 2011

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. For more information, contact your county's Extension agent for Family and Consumer Sciences or visit www.ca.uky.edu/fcs.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

UK UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

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

Slow Cooker BBQ Turkey Legs

Cook Wild KENTUCKY

KENTUCKY DEPT. OF FISH & WILDLIFE RESOURCES

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

SNAP Putting Healthy Food Within Reach
USDA Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

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

EFNEP Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program

Slow Cooker BBQ Turkey Legs

- *2 wild turkey legs with thighs*
- *¼ teaspoon ground pepper*
- *¼ cup ketchup*
- *1 8-ounce can no-salt-added tomato sauce*
- *¼ cup water*
- *¼ cup brown sugar*
- *2 tablespoons prepared yellow mustard*
- *3 tablespoons vinegar*
- *2 teaspoons paprika*

1. Wash hands with warm water and soap, scrubbing for at least 20 seconds, especially after handling raw meat.
2. Season turkey meat with pepper and place in 6-quart slow cooker.
3. To make sauce, combine the remaining ingredients and stir well.
4. Pour sauce over turkey.
5. Cook, covered, in slow cooker on low for 7 hours, or until meat is tender and falls off the bone or has reached an internal temperature of 165 degrees F.

Yield: 6 servings
Serving Size: 6 ounces of meat

Nutrition facts per serving:
370 calories; 4.5g total fat; 1g saturated fat; 0g trans fat; 170mg cholesterol; 470mg sodium; 12g total carbohydrate; 1g dietary fiber; 9g sugars; 7g added sugars; 72g protein; 0% Daily Value of vitamin D; 4% Daily Value of calcium; 15% Daily Value of iron; 15% Daily Value of potassium.