

Todd County Extension Agriculture Newsletter



November 2025

GRAIN SAFETY/RESCUE FOR FARMERS & EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

& Chili Cook-Off

COOK UP YOUR BEST BATCH
AND WIN ULTIMATE CHILI
BRAGGING RIGHTS!!!

DEC. 9TH
6:00 PM



Continuing Education Credit
Available for:
Emergency Responders

Call 270-265-5659 to Register or Enter Chili Cook-Off

TODD COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
240 POND RIVER ROAD, ELKTON KY

**Cooperative
Extension Service**



REGISTER NOW FOR GRAIN BIN SAFETY & RESCUE TRAINING

We are excited to host farmers and first responders here on Tuesday December 9 at 6:00 pm for this training. Please let us know if you plan to attend or if you plan to enter the chili cook-off. We are seeking sponsorships for this event! Please call for details.

Traci Johnson
Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent

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Todd County Extension · 240 Pond River Rd · Elkton, KY 42220 · 270-265-5659

**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.

COVER CROPS FOR HIGH TUNNELS: ARE YOU CHOOSING THE BEST ONE FOR YOUR NEEDS?

First, what can cover crops do for you? Lots. In high tunnels, cover crops **suppress weed growth, build organic matter in the soil, some fix nitrogen, while others scavenge nitrogen from the soil** and release it for your next crop.

Your choice of cover crop can even **help decrease Southern root-knot nematode populations** in soil — make sure the cover crop is listed as a Non-Host for nematodes. Some, not all, mustard cover crops are biofumigants that **help decrease disease populations in soil**.

Like most everything else, cover crop choices have both **pros and cons**, so reviewing all their traits before making a decision is important. Stop by or contact us to get more information on cover crops for high tunnels or fields.



Table 1. A sampling of cover crops varieties tested in high tunnels in Kentucky, Tennessee and Georgia, and their traits.

Cover Crop	Traits					Tolerance				Comments
	N Fixing	N Scavenging	Soil Builder	Weed Suppression ^a	Host for Southern root-knot nematode	Quick Growth	Cold	Drought	Low Fertility	
Clover, Crimson, Dixie	Yes	Good	Good	Very Good	Yes	Good	Fair	Fair	Good	Not tolerant of poorly drained or highly alkaline soils.
Clover, Common Mammoth	Yes	Good	Good	Very Good	Unknown ^b	Fair	Very Good	Fair	Fair	Dependable.
Hairy Vetch, variety not stated	Yes	Fair	Fair	Good	Yes	Fair	Good	Good	Fair	Slow early growth. Excellent for N source. Excessive biomass can be a challenge. Reseeds and can become a weed
Mustard, Pacific Gold	No	Excellent	Very Good	Very Good	Yes	Very Good	Good	Very Good	Fair	Not heat tolerant. Rapidly maturing. Do not use with other brassicas in rotation
Oat, Bob	No	Very Good	Very Good	Excellent	No	Excellent	Poor	Fair	Good	Easier to terminate and earlier to mature than rye.
Oilseed Radish, Sodbuster	No	Excellent	Very Good	Excellent	No	Very Good	Poor-Fair	Fair	Fair	Breaks up soil compaction. Scavenges N from deeper soil level. Do not use with other brassicas in rotation
Rye, Cereal, Wren's Abruzzi	No	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	No	Excellent	Very Good	Very Good	Excellent	Southern-adapted rye cultivar.
Annual Ryegrass, Marshall	No	Good	Good	Good	No	Good	Good	Fair	Good	Effective N scavenger. Tolerant of cool soils for germination.
Triticale, Triticale 102	No	Good	Very Good	Good	Unknown ^c	Good	Good	Good	Good	High saline tolerance. Later fall planting tolerance. Fibrous root system.
Winter Wheat	No	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good	Variable ^d	Very Good	Good	Good	Good	Easier to terminate than rye. Not likely to become weed problem.

^aWeed suppression can vary depending on the cover crop stand and biomass produced. ^bHost status is unknown for this particular variety; however, most clover varieties are hosts for RKN.

^cHost status is unknown for this particular variety; however, other triticale varieties are hosts for RKN. ^dHost status for winter wheat depends on the variety; some are non-hosts and some are hosts for RKN.

UPCOMING AG EVENTS

Cattle Field Day - Feeding Systems

November 22nd, 9:30 am - 11:00 am

Laster Farm, 2715 Blue Hole Road, Elkton

Fenceline Feeding, Heavy Use Areas, & Hay Storage Barns

West Kentucky Bred Heifer Sale

November 22nd, 12 noon, KY-TN Livestock Market, Guthrie

KY-TN CPH Advantage Sale

December 9th, KY-TN Livestock Market, Guthrie

Grain Safety/Rescue for Farmers & Emergency Responders + Chili Cook-Off

December 9th, 6:00 pm

Todd County Extension Office, 240 Pond River Road, Elkton

Continuing Education Credit Available for Emergency Responders

Call 265-5659 to Register or to Enter Chili Cook-Off

West Kentucky Commercial Horticulture Conference

December 10th, 8:30 - 3:00 pm

Fairview Produce Auction, Pembroke, KY

Master Cattleman

Begins January 6th, 5:30 pm, Christian County Extension Office

See ad on page 5 for details

Kentucky Fruit & Vegetable Conference

January 12-13, Sloan Convention Center, Bowling Green, KY

Details and registration: <https://kyhortcouncil.org/>

Kentucky Cattlemen's Convention

January 15-16, Owensboro Convention Center

Details and registration: <https://www.kycattle.org/>

Private Pesticide Applicator Certification will be offered January through March. Once scheduled, these will be published in the newsletter, and letters with training dates will be mailed to all applicators with licenses expiring in 2025.

DECEMBER 10, 2025

WESTERN KENTUCKY COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURE CONFERENCE

Fairview Produce Auction

10292 US-68, Pembroke KY

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



Training for Produce and Flower Growers
...plus vendor exhibits

TIME (cst) SCHEDULE

8:30AM

Registration

9:00AM

Flower Buyers Panel / Bill Able, EHR, Host
Aaron Peters (Family Roots); Lyndon Yoder
(Yoder's Garden Shop); Andy Rideout (Day's Nursery);
Ericka Filonczuk (Four Star Greenhouse); Josh
Roggenbuck (Walters Gardens)

10:30AM

Blueberry Production

11:20AM

Fairview Produce Auction Update &
Sponsor Greetings
LUNCH (provided by Fairview Produce Auction)

12:45PM

Production Methods of Fall Vining Crops /
Brad Bergefurd, BRANDT

1:45PM

Heirloom Tomato Types

2:15PM

Fall and Winter Production of Cole Crops /
Nathan Howell, Need More Acres

3:00PM

Closing Remarks

EVENT SPONSORS

CONTACT US: 270.886.6328 OR 270.265.5659

Pre-registration not required

Cooperative Extension Service
Agriculture and Natural Resources
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LEXINGTON, KY 40546

Kelly Jackson McJohnson



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

OLD OR UNWANTED PESTICIDES? CALL 502-573-0282 TO REQUEST ON-FARM PICKUP

AGRICULTURAL CHEMICAL COLLECTIONS PROGRAM

This program deals only with unwanted agricultural pesticides. It does not include such items as motor oils, cleaners, paint, antifreeze or industrial chemicals. There is NO COST to farmers to dispose of their old chemicals! Over pack supplies, transporting of unwanted chemicals, and their disposal is paid for by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture. Kentucky Department of Agriculture field representatives will come to your farm to package, load and transport the unwanted chemicals from your farm. Once the unwanted chemicals leave the farm they are then taken to an approved landfill or incinerator for proper disposal, thus reducing or eliminating the potential for pollution to the land and waters of Kentucky. Due to the States Current Budgetary Restraints; it is possible that you may be put on a waiting list for Chemical Collection Disposal.



KENTUCKY
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

JONATHAN SHELL
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

FORAGE TIMELY TIPS

- Apply 30-40 lb N/A to strengthen cool-season grass sods.
- If not already done, inventory hay and assess hay quality.
- Using a plate meter or grazing stick*, estimate stockpile available for winter grazing.
- Adjust animal numbers or purchase additional hay to balance forage-feed supply to livestock needs.
- Graze crop residues and cover crops that will not overwinter. Be careful to avoid fields that contain johnsongrass following frosts or freezes.
- Graze winter annuals that will not overwinter such as brassicas and oats.
- Graze other winter annuals once they are 6-8 inches tall and are well anchored. Do NOT graze closer than 4 inches.



* WHAT IS A GRAZING STICK?

A Grazing Stick is more than a yardstick. It's a useful tool to measure amount of forage in a field, and it can also help in deciding when to put animals on pasture or rotate them off. University of Wisconsin Extension has a short guide on using a grazing stick in rotational grazing systems:

<https://cropsandsoils.extension.wisc.edu/files/2023/09/Grazing-Stick-Guide.pdf>

2026 Master Cattlemen

**Cost: \$125/Person
Dinner 5:30PM
Program 6:00PM-9:00PM**
Can Attend Either Location

Hosted by: Caldwell, Christian, Henderson, Hopkins, Muhlenberg, Todd, Trigg, Union and Webster counties

Location 1:

**Hopkins Co Extension Office
25 Mahr Park Dr. Madisonville, KY**

**Jan 5: Genetics, Dr. Darrh Bullock
Jan 12: Reproduction/Record Keeping,
Dr. Les Anderson
Jan 26: Herd Health, Dr. Michelle Arnold
Feb 2: Forages, Dr. Chris Teutsch
Feb 9: Nutrition, Dr. Katie VanValin
Feb 16: Marketing & Profitability,
Kevin Laurent
Feb 23: Facilities & Winter Feeding,
Dr. Katie VanValin**

Location 2:

**Christian Co Extension Office
2850 Pembroke Rd Hopkinsville, KY**

**Jan 6: Genetics, Dr. Darrh Bullock
Jan 13: Reproduction/Record Keeping,
Dr. Les Anderson
Jan 27: Herd Health, Dr. Michelle Arnold
Feb 3: Forages, Dr. Chris Teutsch
Feb 10: Nutrition, Dr. Katie VanValin
Feb 17: Marketing & Profitability,
Kevin Laurent
Feb 24: Facilities & Winter Feeding,
Dr. Katie VanValin**

*To sign up, contact your county Extension Office. In Todd County, call 270-265-5659.
Checks should be made payable to the Caldwell County Soil Lab.*

DEADLINE TO SIGN UP: December 19, 2025

The Master Cattleman program is the flagship educational program for Kentucky cattle producers. This program incorporates all aspects of beef production into a mid-level educational program developed to provide foundational knowledge to allow Kentucky beef producers to be competitive and successful. Participants will receive up to 40 hours of classroom instruction and must attend all sessions to receive certification!



OCTOBER 2025

ECONOMIC & POLICY UPDATE

E-NEWSLETTER VOL. 25 ISSUE 10

EDITORS: WILL SNELL, SAVANNAH COLUMBIA, ASLIHAN SPAULDING

More Base Acres, More Protection

Author(s): Grant Gardner, Oranuch Wongpiyabovorn, and Alejandro Plastina.

Published: October 31, 2025

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), signed into law on July 4, 2025, makes a landmark change to federal farm programs. For the first time since the 2014 Farm Bill, farmers will have the opportunity to expand their base acres under the Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs. Beginning with the 2026 crop year, USDA will allocate up to 30 million new base acres nationwide.

This change carries particular significance for Kentucky. Many farms across the state have consistently planted more acres in recent years than their existing base acreage reflects (Gardner, 2024). By tying new base allocations to more recent planting history, the law ensures that additional acres in Kentucky will now be eligible for ARC and PLC benefits, strengthening the state's farm safety net.

Preliminary projections suggest Kentucky could see substantial gains. Depending on USDA's final implementation rules, the state could add between 470,000 and 565,000 corn base acres, 570,000 to 677,000 soybean base acres, and 145,000 to 153,000 wheat base acres. Among these, soybeans are positioned to benefit the most, with Kentucky ranking among the top states nationally for new soybean base acreage (Wongpiyabovorn & Plastina, 2025).

Without a base acre adjustment, many of the proposed farm bill enhancements—including higher reference prices—would provide little or no added benefit in Kentucky (Gardner, Biram, and Loy, 2024). Counties with large planted acres but relatively low base acres would continue to miss out on payments, leaving much of the state's production unprotected. This problem has been especially acute where land has transitioned from pasture into cropland, leaving producers without base acres tied to their actual planting history. By aligning base acres with recent planting records, the OBBBA ensures that Kentucky farmers—including those on newly converted cropland—can capture the full value of future farm bill improvements.

Updating base acres will be a one-time, voluntary process, and USDA's Farm Service Agency is expected to publish the rules ahead of the 2026 crop year (Wongpiyabovorn & Plastina, 2025). The update will be based on the five-year average of planted, failed, and prevented acres from 2019 to 2023, along with adjustments for noncovered crops. Because enrollment will not happen automatically, producers will need to work with FSA to verify their records and document their acreage history. This makes the upcoming sign-up a unique opportunity to align base acres with recent planting patterns and strengthen farm program protection in Kentucky.

Complete county list is available online at <https://agecon.mgcafe.uky.edu/econ-policy-updates>

Table 1: Additional Base Acres by County (All Crops)

CORN, SOYBEANS, WHEAT; sorted by Total

Rank	County	FIPS	Corn	Soybeans	Wheat	Total
1	Christian	21047	26,298	27,156	21,562	75,016
2	Logan	21141	23,135	25,941	18,899	67,975
3	Caldwell	21033	16,531	19,768	8,587	44,886
4	Graves	21083	17,307	20,308	5,674	43,289
5	Barren	21009	20,006	19,016	4,069	43,091
6	Warren	21227	14,499	13,918	6,078	34,495
7	Hardin	21093	14,061	17,288	1,948	33,297
8	Pulaski	21199	9,023	17,686	3,467	30,175
9	Larue	21123	11,728	15,046	2,631	29,405
10	Daviess	21059	12,580	15,565	807	28,952
11	Crittenden	21055	10,870	11,532	2,373	24,775
12	Ohio	21183	11,027	13,244	408	24,679
13	Marion	21155	9,337	10,873	3,823	24,032
14	Butler	21031	9,733	13,621	609	23,964
15	Trigg	21221	8,381	8,532	5,776	22,689
16	Todd	21219	7,938	8,325	5,964	22,227
17	Union	21225	11,971	8,843	949	21,763
18	Muhlenberg	21177	7,890	12,421	1,340	21,651
19	Simpson	21213	7,375	7,874	5,725	20,974
20	Livingston	21139	9,051	9,570	1,259	19,880
21	Hart	21099	6,560	11,321	1,060	18,941
22	Henderson	21101	8,794	9,557	409	18,760
23	Grayson	21085	6,449	11,616	690	18,755
24	Marshall	21157	6,927	8,733	2,960	18,619

