

Fayette County Agriculture & Natural Resources Newsletter



Cooperative Extension Service
Fayette County Extension
1140 Harry Sykes Way
Lexington, KY 40504-1383
Phone (859) 257-5582
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<http://fayette.ca.uky.edu/>

October 2024

Forage Timely Tips: October

Source: **UK Forage News**
<https://kyforagenews.com>

- Feed hay to allow cool-season pastures to accumulate forage growth for winter grazing.
- Do NOT harvest or graze alfalfa until after killing frost or early November
- Inventory and test each hay lot for nutritive value and consult a nutritionist to design a supplementation program as needed.
- Remove ruminants from pastures that contain sorghum species (forage sorghums, sorghum-sudangrass hybrids, sudangrass, and johnsongrass) when frost is expected. Even small patches of johnsongrass that have been frost can cause prussic acid (cyanide) poisoning.
- Begin strip grazing early planted small grain and brassicas (turnips and rape) mixes by the end of this month.
- Late October/early November is a good time to control weeds like poison hemlock, plantain (broadleaf or buckhorn), and biennial thistles (bull, musk, plumeless).

Upcoming Events

|| **October 24, 2024 ~ Kentucky Beef Conference**; Fayette County Extension Office, Lexington, KY; 10:00am-2:00pm; Please see the flyer in this newsletter for more information on how to register for the conference; Cost is \$10.00, payable at the door.

|| **October 31-November 2, 2024 ~ Tire Roundup**; 1631 Old Frankfort Pike, Lexington; Please see the notice later in this newsletter for more information and drop off times for disposal.

|| **November 2, 2024 ~ 2024 Kentucky Maple School**; For more information, please go online to <https://forestry.ca.uky.edu/events/2024-kentucky-maple-school>

|| **November 12, 2024 ~ 2024 Invasive Plant Conference**, 9:00am-3:00pm ET; For more information, please go online to <https://forestry.ca.uky.edu/events/2024-invasive-plant-conference>

|| **November 14, 2024 ~ 2024 Fencing School**; Greenacres, Cincinnati, OH; 7:30am-4:30pm; Registration deadline is 2 weeks prior to date of workshop; For more information and to register, please go online to <https://forages.ca.uky.edu/events/2024-fencing-school>

From the Woods Today

University of Kentucky Forestry and Natural Resources Extension is offering relevant information about woodlands in a weekly internet show. "From the Woods Today" airs live on **Wednesdays at 11:00am**. Links to the live shows are posted just prior to the show.

More information and links to the live show previous shows please go online to <https://forestry.ca.uky.edu/woods-today>



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

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, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating. Lexington, KY 40506



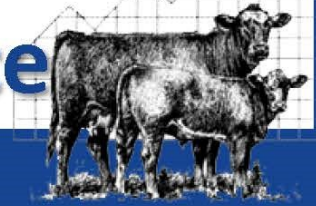
Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.



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

"Today's Challenges, Tomorrow's Opportunities"

Kentucky Beef Conference



October 24, 2024

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

9:00—10:00

Registration, visit
sponsors

\$10 registration fee

**RSVP by October 22nd
to Fayette County
Extension Office
859.257.5582**

10:00—Welcome & Sponsor Recognition

Beau Neal, Woodford County Agriculture &
Natural Resources Extension Agent

University of KY Remarks & Welcome

Dr. Laura Stephenson, UK Director of Extension

Genomics Technology

Dr. Troy Rowan, University of Tennessee
Institute of Agriculture Beef Genetics
Extension Specialist

11:00— Marketing Update & Outlook

Dr. Kenny Burdine, UK Beef Economic
Extension Specialist

12:00 Lunch

1:00— Animal Tagging Update

Dr. Michelle Arnold, UK Extension Ruminant
Veterinarian

1:30— KY Beef Cattle Health Update

Dr. Steve Velasco, KY Department of
Agriculture State Veterinarian

2:00—Adjourn

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Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

2024 Fall Crop Protection Webinar Series scheduled for October and November

Sign up now for a popular webinar series that addresses timely topics regarding integrated pest management for field crops. University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment extension specialists have once again organized the Fall Crop Protection Webinar Series, hosted through the Southern Integrated Pest Management Center. Each webinar will begin at 10 a.m. ET/9 a.m. CT, and will be one hour in length. Continuing education credits for Certified Crop Advisors and Kentucky pesticide applicators will be available.



2024 Fall Crop Protection Webinar Series

This year the webinars will be held Oct. 15, Oct. 29, Nov. 12, and Nov. 26. Pre-registration is required to attend each webinar. The webinars are open to agriculture and natural resource county extension agents, crop consultants, farmers, industry professionals, and others, whether they reside or work in Kentucky or outside the state. Pre-registration links and schedules follow:



Webinar #1: Oct. 15 — Dr. Raul Villanueva, Extension Entomologist

Title: Dealing with stink bugs and other insect pests in 2023-24

Webinar link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MAppWNeZR5yCSoTGMGUj_Q



Webinar #2: Oct. 29 — Dr. Kiersten A. Wise, Extension Plant Pathologist

Title: Maximizing disease control AND return on investment for corn fungicides

Webinar link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_irdgz-OATPy3hCKsOVxyGQ



Webinar #3: Nov. 12 — Dr. Travis Legleiter, Extension Weeds Specialist

Title: Spray Application Parameters – The Offensive Line of Herbicide Applications

Webinar link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rxH9T0W4T4a3HZRFAqGA1w



Webinar #4: Nov. 26 — Dr. Carl Bradley, Extension Plant Pathologist

Title: Management of important wheat diseases in Kentucky

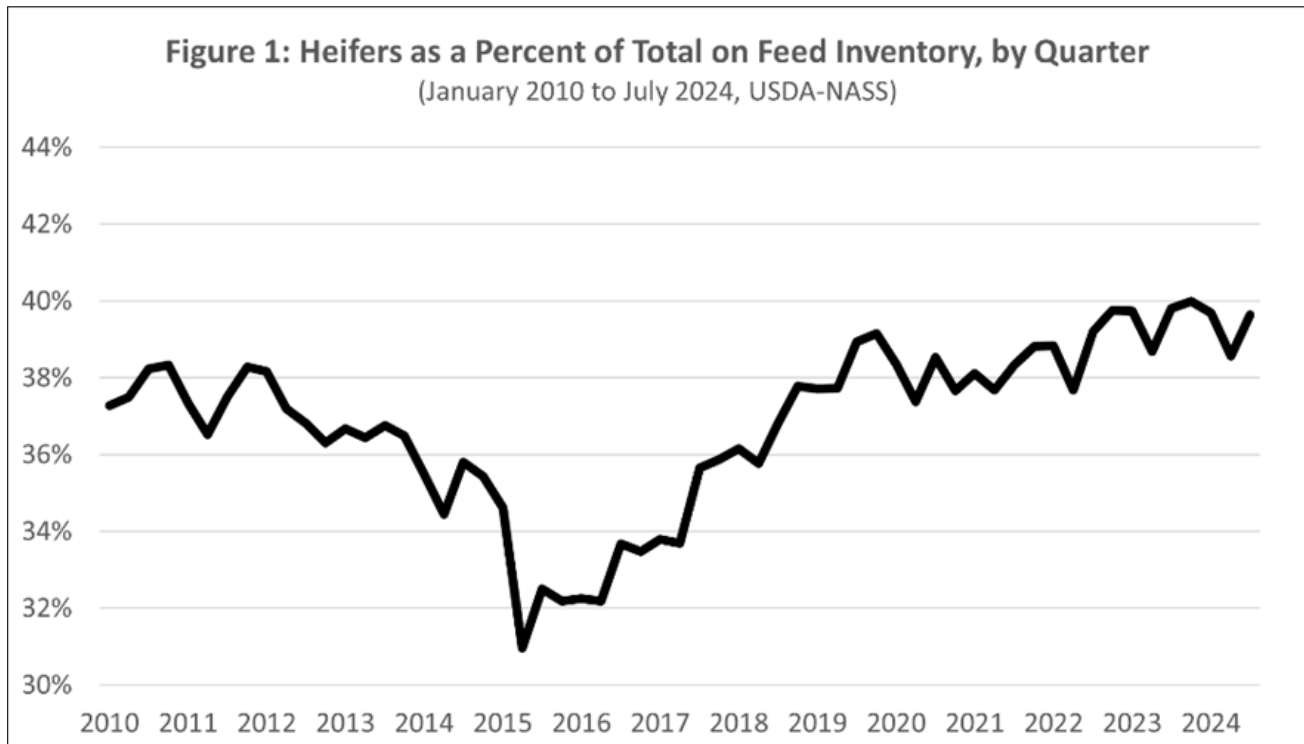
Webinar link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NUrPmPdgQICwWGHR-qOCEw

For more information, contact jason.travis@uky.edu or go online to <https://wkrec.ca.uky.edu/events/fall-crop-protection-webinar-series>.

The 3 Ps of Herd Expansion: Profit, Pasture and Patience

Kenny Burdine, Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

As I write this article in early October, beef cow inventory is at a 62 year low. Tight supplies have driven cattle markets and calf prices have increased by roughly \$1 per lb over the last two years. With limited heifer retention and beef cow slaughter on track to exceed 10% of beef cow inventory for the year, it appears very likely that beef cow numbers will be even lower going into 2025. At some point, we will expand this cowherd but there appears to be little evidence that producers have an appetite for that currently. In order for the cow herd to grow, we need to have the 3 Ps of herd expansion at the cow-calf level: profit, pasture and patience.



The first P is probably the most obvious – profit. There will be no interest in cowherd expansion if money is not being made at the cow-calf level. While profit has largely been there recently, it is important to remember that these strong calf price levels are relatively new. We actually went from November 2015 to February 2023 (7 years and 4 months) with the state average price of a 550 lb medium / large frame #1-2 steer in Kentucky being under \$2 per lb. Coming out of that challenging 7-year period, I think a lot of cow-calf operators have been cautious and guarded. Just as importantly, a lot of costs are substantially higher now than they were ten years ago, so comparing current calf prices to historical calf prices can be misleading. Still, I think current returns at the cow-calf level are sufficient to see heifer retention if the other two Ps fall into place.

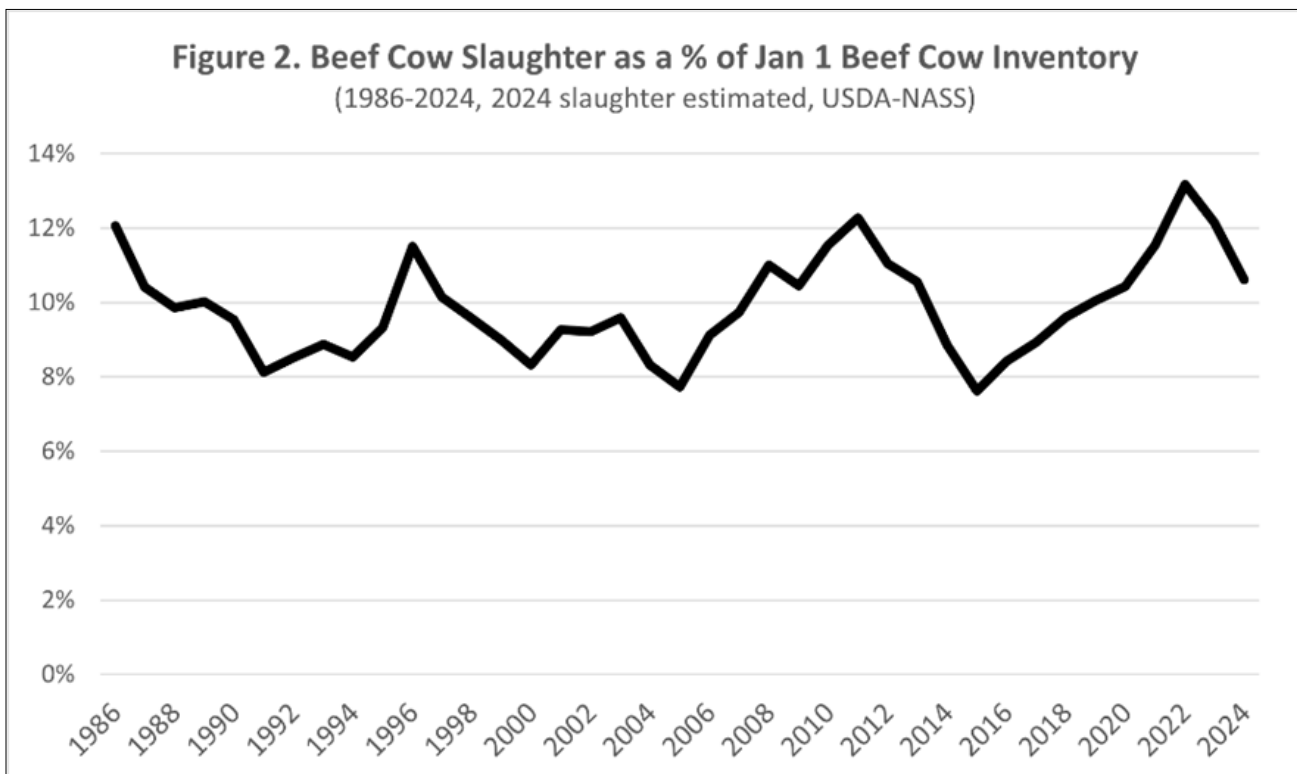
The second P is pasture, and I am using pasture broadly to describe forage / feed availability. While profit may be the first driver of expansion, no level of profit can make it rain and limited pasture and hay supplies can nix any interest in expansion in a hurry. As a recent example, drought was so widespread in the US during 2022 that expansion would have been highly unlikely, regardless of calf price levels. Both hay supplies and pasture and range conditions have improved since 2022, but a lot of areas have been dry this year, including my home state of Kentucky. Regardless, there is no doubt that both profit and pasture / hay are needed in order to see a significant interest in expansion.

Continued on next page

The final P is patience, and I actually think this may be the one that is most lacking in the cattle industry right now. When a farmer decides to expand the size of their cowherd, they are trading income from the sale of heifers today for a stream of income from additional calf sales in the future. Weaned heifers are valuable in 2024 and passing up that income in the short run is difficult. Developing heifers is also costly and is an expense that is incurred well before additional calves can be sold. These same factors were largely present when our last expansion began in 2015, but interest rates were considerably lower than they are today. Higher interest rates increase cost of production and also increase the preference for income today, rather than in the future. Put another way, patience is at a premium in higher interest rate environments like the present.

At some point, the three Ps will line up and we will expand this cowherd. When that will happen is a difficult question to answer, but it is safe to say there are no signs of heifer retention right now. Limited heifer retention, combined with cow slaughter levels, suggest that another decrease in beef cow inventory is almost certain when the January 2025 estimates are released. So, supply fundamentals are encouraging and should continue to support calf prices next year. Many are also expecting some reductions in interest rates over the several months, which may factor into this decision at the producer level.

If weather cooperates, I do think increased heifer retention could be seen in 2025, but it is important to remember that this would just be the first step towards expansion. And the initial impact of heifer retention is actually a tightening of calf markets as those heifers are held back. There are always risk factors out there, but I remain optimistic about the next couple of years largely because cattle supplies are tight and likely to get tighter. We are not seeing signs up expansion yet, so all we can do is watch for the 3 Ps!



The Markets

Kenny Burdine, Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

Feeder cattle prices were higher across most markets last week, with a few exceptions. Fed cattle and boxed beef prices were largely unchanged. Futures prices were higher for live cattle, feeders, and corn.

Cattle Market Report Prices \$/cwt. Sources: USDA, LMIC, and CME		For Weeks Ending On			% Chg Prev. Week	% Chg Prev. Year	Chg Prev. Week
		10/4/24	9/27/24	10/6/23			
500-600 lb. Feeder Steers	Mississippi M/L #1-2	\$252.89	\$251.33	\$234.01	1%	8%	\$1.56
	Arkansas M/L #1	\$269.04	\$263.14	\$235.08	2%	14%	\$5.90
	Kentucky M/L #1-2	\$267.15	\$262.91	\$235.08	2%	14%	\$4.24
	Oklahoma City M/L #1-2	\$268.24	\$260.66	\$258.78	3%	4%	\$7.57
	Alabama M/L #1	\$263.13	\$260.78	\$250.66	1%	5%	\$2.34
	Tennessee M/L #1-2	\$253.38	\$255.84	\$242.44	-1%	5%	(\$2.46)
	Missouri M/L #1-2	\$269.43	\$268.09	\$266.46	1%	1%	\$1.35
700-800 lb. Feeder Steers	Mississippi M/L #1-2	\$223.50	\$227.00	\$207.29	-2%	8%	(\$3.50)
	Arkansas M/L #1	\$241.52	\$242.74	\$225.18	-1%	7%	(\$1.22)
	Kentucky M/L #1-2	\$237.75	\$234.80	\$224.18	1%	6%	\$2.95
	Oklahoma City M/L #1-2	\$238.68	\$237.08	\$247.82	1%	-4%	\$1.60
	Alabama M/L #1	\$234.82	\$228.43	\$226.82	3%	4%	\$6.39
	Tennessee M/L #1-2	\$228.90	\$216.00	\$217.47	6%	5%	\$12.90
	Missouri M/L #1-2	\$242.06	\$241.58	\$243.50	0%	-1%	\$0.48
Negotiated Fed Steers	Live Price	\$186.89	\$186.15	\$182.72	0%	2%	\$0.74
	Dressed Price	\$296.00	\$293.53	\$289.26	1%	2%	\$2.47
Boxed Beef	Choice Value, 600-900 lb.	\$300.09	\$298.99	\$299.94	0%	0%	\$1.10
Cutout	Select Value, 600-900 lb.	\$284.93	\$284.48	\$275.60	0%	3%	\$0.45

City's Tire Roundup 2024

Kentucky residents, farmers and businesses who generate less than five percent of their revenues from tire sales are able to drop off unwanted tires for free at the City's Tire Roundup, at the Old Landfill Pad, 1631 Old Frankfort Pike. Please enter through the front gates.

When: Thursday, October 31 and Friday, November 1, 2024 ~ 8:00am-4:00pm
Saturday, November 2, 2024 ~ 8:00am-noon

Location: 1631 Old Frankfort Pike
(enter and exit via main gate entrance—follow the posted signage)

Guidelines for dropping off:

- Drop off is free to residents and eligible businesses
- Tire retailers, scrap/salvage yards and recycling businesses are not eligible to participate.
- Larger loads: please bring assistance to unload

Can accept:

- Tires on or off the rim, including: farm implement, bicycle, motorcycle, go-cart, ATV, tractor, truck and passenger

Cannot accept:

- Large OTR, tracks, sheet rubber, solid, calcium, or otherwise filled, any tire with a bead greater than 3/4 inches

For more information: <https://www.lexingtonky.gov/tire-roundup>

Cooperative Extension Service

Fayette County Cooperative Extension
1140 Harry Sykes Way
Lexington, KY 40504-1383

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Office Hours: 8:00am - 4:30pm - Monday-Friday

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY,
KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY, U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND
KENTUCKY COUNTIES, COOPERATING



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