

Newsletter



140 Main St, Frenchburg, KY 40322

Mary McCarty,
CEA for ANR/4-H

Up Coming Events

Dec 23 CAIP INFO 6:30pm

Jan 6 CEC 5:00pm

Jan 6 District Bd 6:00pm

Jan 7 4-H Horse Judging 3:30

Jan 7 BQCA 1:00pm

Jan 7 SRQCA 6:00pm

Jan 10 4-H Teen Retreat Due

Jan 13 4-H Horse 6:30pm

Jan 13 4-H Livestock Judging

Jan 14 4-H Country Ham Education

Jan 14 BQCA 6:00pm

Jan 15 4-H Livestock 4:00pm

Jan 16 4-H ACDC West Liberty

Jan 20 4-H Country Ham Day

Jan 21 4-H Exp and Review 5pm

Jan 21 4-H Council 6:00pm

Jan 23 4-H Cloverbuds 5:30pm

Jan 30-31 4-H Teen Retreat

The event for the evening will be a dinner theater program. If you would like to volunteer to be an actor that evening please call Mary. We look forward in spending the evening with you and celebrating Menifee County Extension

CAIP Applications

CAIP Applications will be available starting January 2 at the Menifee County Extension Office. All applications are due January 23 by mail. Applications will be mailed to the Menifee Extension Office. If you have questions please contact Mel Smallwood 606-484-1046 or Mary at the office.

SAVE THE DATE

4-H Camp for 2025 dates are June 3-6. Applications will be available at the beginning of March. Campers must 8 years old and going into the 4th grade - 13 years old. CIT are 14 and 15 year olds. These CIT take 2 classes at a camp and 2 classes on skill building toward being at Junior Counselors. Junior Counselors are 16 and 17 year olds. Adult Counselors are 18 year old +. For every 8 campers there must be 1 junior counselor or adult counselor. more information contact the office and speak to Mary or Ailee.

SAVE THE DATE

March 7 there will be a new event in Menifee County. There will be a Celebration of Extension Banquet at the Clark Energy Building. There will food, awards, a program, and most importantly spending much time with people that we care deeply for.

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

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. You will receive an invitation and password the morning of the presentation.

November

12

Shooting the Bull: Answering all your Beef Related Questions!

Updates and Roundtable discussion with UK Specialists

December

10

Winter Feeding Strategies to Extend Short Hay Supplies

Dr. Lawton Stewart, Professor, University of Georgia

January

14

Important Traits for Bull Selection in Kentucky

Dr. Matt Spangler, Professor, University of Nebraska

February

11

Marketing Opportunities for the Spring

Dr. Kenny Burdine, Professor, and Kevin Laurent, Extension Specialist, University of Kentucky

March

11

Preparing for a Successful Spring Breeding Season

Dr. Les Anderson, Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

April

8

Health Update and Internal Parasite Field Study Results

Dr. Michelle Arnold, Extension Veterinarian, and Dr. Jeff Lehmkuhler, 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.

MESSENGER-INQUIRER



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



Farm Update

extension.ca.uky.edu
AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES
EDUCATION

Clint Hardy
Daviness County Extension Office

January 14, 2023

Liming Acidic Soils

There have been countless advancements made in agricultural agronomy but one of the most important relating to fertility is adding crushed limestone to acidic soils which increases nutrient availability. Soils become acidic for different reasons, but the primary reason in Kentucky is nitrogen fertilizer application.

By definition, acidic soil has a higher concentration of hydrogen ions than hydroxyl ions in the soil solution. However, a soil pH of 6.5 is considered ideal for Kentucky row crops. Lime products such as ag lime, pelletized lime, and other materials that consume hydrogen ions (acidity) are used to raise soil pH in agricultural fields. Ag lime consists of either calcitic, (calcium only) or dolomitic (containing both calcium and magnesium) limestone, in a range of particle sizes. Pelletized lime is typically calcitic limestone and consists of smaller particles that are pressed into a “pellet” and held together using a chemical binding agent. This reduces dust and improves spreading performance.

The effectiveness of limestone is determined by the purity of the material, referred to as the calcium carbonate equivalence (CCE), and the particle size of the material. The smaller the particle size of limestone the more quickly it will react with the soil when applied. The

MESSENGER-INQUIRER

combination of particle size and CCE is used to calculate the relative neutralizing value (RNV) of the product in the following equation.

UK has been conducting a liming study across the state. The objectives of this study are to compare the effectiveness of liquid calcium, pelletized lime, and agricultural lime in raising soil pH in both the laboratory and in 16 forage field locations. Treatments included an untreated check, liquid calcium (Advanced-Cal, AgriTec International) at 5 gallons per acre, pelletized lime (RNV of 83) at 2.4 ton/A, and agricultural (ag) lime (RNV of 77) at 2.6 ton/A. Soil samples were collected again, 2-3 months later, when the producer harvested hay. A laboratory soil incubation study was conducted in conjunction with the field study. Soil with an initial pH of 5.2 was incubated in specimen cups and maintained at 80% water-filled pore space. Treatments equal to those used in the field study were applied and mixed into the soil in the cups. Soil pH was then measured at 1 and 3 months of incubation.

The field study site data shows that there was little to no change in soil pH in the untreated check and liquid calcium (Advanced-Cal, AgriTec International) treatments in the laboratory incubation. In the field, both these treatments actually resulted in a decrease in soil pH, relative to the initial field soil pH. Both pelletized and ag limes caused a positive change in field soil pH, between 0.30 and 0.40 pH units. Similar trends were observed in the laboratory study, which shows that pelletized and ag lime amended soils exhibited increased soil pH with time while the check and liquid calcium treated soils did not. The soil pH changes with time show the natural progression of soil pH decline when liming agents are not used and soil pH increase when high quality liming agents are used.

MESSENGER-INQUIRER

Another factor to consider is the cost of the products. Prices vary from location to location and should always be checked prior to making any decision on input purchases. In western Kentucky, at the time this study was initiated, ag lime was roughly \$15 per ton or less. There is an additional delivery/spreading fee associated with this. Pelletized lime was between \$200 and \$300 per ton and still has an associated spreading fee. The liquid calcium was purchased for approximately \$30 per gallon with a recommended use rate of 2-4 gallons per acre. Ignoring application fees, this works out to about \$30/A for ag lime, \$400-600/A for pelletized lime, and \$60-120/A for liquid calcium.

When a person is deciding on the best way to lime a production field there are two primary questions that need to be answered. Does the product work? What does it cost? Pricing the proven products will go a long way towards making good agronomic and economic decisions for soil pH management.

Upcoming Event

Ag Expo is on January 25th at the Owensboro Convention Center. This year, instead of a keynote speaker, there will be a panel discussion on how strategic thinking translates to a successful grain farming business. Be sure to read next week's article for more information.

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate based on 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

UK Forage News

Keeping Forage-Livestock Producers in Kentucky Informed
Dr. Ray Smith and Echo Gotsick, MS editors

December 2024

Dr. Jimmy Henning Retiring after 35+ years

Dr. Jimmy Henning will retire at the end of this year and we want to recognize him and thank him for all his outstanding contributions. Jimmy has been involved professionally in forage extension and applied research since 1986. Throughout that time, he has been a leader in all things forage in KY and across the country. During the years he was at the University of Missouri Jimmy single-handedly ran the mobile forage testing unit which was one of the first in the country. When he came to UK in 1990 as a forage specialist, he was one of the leaders introducing no-till establishment for forages. Jimmy initiated a program to show the value of improved red clover varieties which resulted in a 500% increase in their use in the state. He restarted the UK Forage Variety testing program which is now one of the largest in the country. Jimmy was a co-founder of the KY Grazing Schools in 1996. After Missouri, the KY Grazing Schools were some of the first in the United States. Jimmy was instrumental in initiating the KDA Hay Testing program and organizing the forage components of the KY Ag Development Board's cost share programs (now under CAIP).

As AFGC President in 1998 he was the main organizer for the first joint AFGC/SRM Conference. During his career Jimmy has given well over 1000 forage extension presentations and written hundreds of extension publications and popular press articles. When he was Assistant Director of the UK Ag Extension program (2003-2007) and Associate Dean for UK Cooperative Extension (2007-2017) he continued to be a strong supporter of forages both for county agents and for specialists even though he was overseeing 360 county agents and 1000 total staff across the state.

In addition to all these accomplishments, when Jimmy stepped down from administration in 2017 he didn't just sit on his laurels. He initiated one of the most productive periods of his career with national leading forage photography, hay and baleage research, soil fertility research, helping coordinate the East, Central and Southcentral KY Hay contests, directing the College of Agriculture's STO online Master's program, teaching the UK Forages

Forage Timely Tips: May

- ✓ Begin utilizing stockpiled pastures. Graze pastures with orchardgrass and clovers first. Save tall fescue pastures for late winter grazing.
- ✓ Using polywire, strip graze stockpiled pasture to improve utilization. Start at the water source and allocate enough forage for 2-3 days. Back fencing is not necessary.
- ✓ Make plans to frost seed red and white clover onto closely grazed tall fescue pastures in February. Secure seed now since supplies of good varieties will be tight.
- ✓ Some hay can be fed as stockpiled grass or grazed to stretch grass.
- ✓ Minimize hay waste by utilizing ring feeders.

course, developing the first UK online forages course, writing a biweekly column for the Farmer's Pride magazine, and much more. And most importantly, Jimmy was available to county agents and producers across the state every day (and many nights) of his career. Thank-you Jimmy. We are hosting a retirement gathering for Jimmy on Dec. 16 at the Fayette County extension office. If you are able, feel free to stop-in anytime between 2:30 and 5:00



Forages at KCA—Jan. 17th

If you are attending the KY Cattleman's Association meeting in January in Owensboro,

make sure to attend the Forages at KCA session. It will be held the second afternoon of the meeting, Jan 17 from 2:25 to 4:30. This year's theme is **Matching Animal Genetics to Forage Resources** and will feature two outstanding forage/livestock producers. Dan Glenn will talk about "Optimizing Production with a Forage Focused System" based on his operation in Fitzgerald, GA- Deep Grass Graziers. Dalton Bennett from Knoll Crest Farm in Redhouse, VA will share about "Genetics for Tall Fescue Based Systems." We look forward to seeing many of you there.

Alfalfa and Stored Forage Conference-Feb. 25

The 2025 Alfalfa and Stored Forage Conference will be held Feb. 25 from 8:00 to 3:30 at the Fayette County Extension office, 1140 Harry Sykes Way, Lexington, KY. The conference will provide important updates on alfalfa production and feature how to produce grass hay for premium markets. The following presentations will be part of the conference. 1-Everything I Ever Needed to Know about Armyworms, 2-Armyworm Control Methods: What to Spray and When, 3-What's New in Alfalfa Varieties, 4-What do Horse Owners Want and Why, 5-What We Can Learn from the Results of the KY Hay Contests, and 6-Emerging Markets for Unique Forage Species. The day will close with four top KY hay producers discussing 7-Orchardgrass, Timothy, Teff, and Fescue/mixed hay production. We have asked them to be very practical and explain their successful methods for establishment, fertilizing, harvesting and marketing. And then we will open the floor to questions. The cost is \$45 and students are only \$15. Go to the UK Forage Website under events to register or mail a check with your name to Krista Lea, N222 Agriculture North, Univ. of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546-0091.

Is this hay any good – Understanding Relative Forage Quality

There are lots of ways to answer the question 'Is my hay any good?' Producers know to look at the crude protein (CP) content and know a higher value means higher quality. Some will go to TDN, or total digestible nutrients, and make a judgement from that value. For some time, we have had a term, Relative Feed Value (RFV), as a useful index for forage quality. The RFV index was an effective way to communicate forage quality, but unfortunately it was designed to work primarily with alfalfa and alfalfa containing hays. RFV discriminates against grasses.

Now there is a new forage index, Relative Forage Quality (RFQ), that allows one number to describe the value of hay across all types of forages. RFQ is a better index because

it uses improved formulas for digestibility and intake that take into account crude protein, non-fiber carbohydrates, the fat content and the digestibility of the fiber component. RFQ also has different intake and digestibility equations for grasses and legumes. The net result is that RFQ is an index that can be used to compare across all forage types. An RFQ value of 140 would mean the same whether it was from an alfalfa or a grass sample. In short, RFQ or Relative Forage Quality provides the best hay quality value to answer the question, "Is my hay any good?" To get RFQ on one of your future forage tests, consult the commercial lab's menu of available forage tests.

This is an excerpt of Dr. Henning's Forage Doctor column in the Nov. 7 issue of Farmer's Pride. For the full article go to: www.thefarmerspride.com.

Are you baling soil?

As you are considering what equipment to buy for next year's hay making season or are you just looking at your hay test results and wondering why ash content is reported. A recent article by Rebecca Kern-Lunbery (Ward Laboratories) in Progressive Forage showed that many producers bale more soil than they want to. The following is an excerpt of this article:

Make sure your forage samples don't contain too much ash based on your hay quality report (which can mean soil contamination). Ash is the total mineral content of a feed and has two sources. Endogenous ash is from the plant and is bioavailable, providing micronutrients to the animal. Exogenous ash is from soil contamination of the feed. Most forages range between 8%-10% ash with 4%-6% representing the endogenous portion. Extremely soil-contaminated forages could contain as much as 25% ash. So, almost one-quarter of the dry matter in that forage is just dirt. A good goal is to make and feed hay with less than 15% ash.

So what causes soil contamination of harvested forages? One common reason that soil can end up in our stored forages is dry conditions. When field conditions are dryer, it is easier for the rake to pull up soil particles and incorporate them into the bale. And there have been many months with dry conditions in recent years. What can we do to prevent soil contamination of our stored forages? Here are four tips to prevent contaminating stored forages with soil:

1. *Cut forages 3-4 inches off the ground.* This can help optimize forage quality by not incorporating the most fibrous portion of the plant. More importantly, this practice will leave more ground cover and give some protection from soil erosion. It will also allow the forage to regrow faster.

2. *Rake as little as possible.* I have

see blue.

known some producers who live in climates where humidity is an issue, and they rake the windrows to turn them to ensure the hay is completely dry. Avoid this practice unless it is absolutely necessary.

3. *Pay attention and adjust your equipment.* Prior to cutting or baling, ensure your equipment is properly adjusted to prevent unnecessary disturbance of the ground. Also, if you are seeing a trail of dust, stop and adjust things to reduce the amount of soil being incorporated into the bale.

Graze. Forgoing the harvesting process will ensure animals have the ability to choose the forage they consume and eliminate the possibility of consuming a lot of dirt.

You might ask “What’s the harm in my cattle eating a little dirt?” A little dirt is ok, but if there is much dirt it can affect animal health. The problem with soil-contaminated feeds is that the soil could cause compaction within the omasum, abomasum or beginning of the small intestine. An impaction would not allow other digesta to pass through. An impaction could cause cattle to go off feed, if it is serious enough. The more likely issue would be a decrease in performance due to the dry matter intake (DMI) the ash is taking up. Because cattle typically consume 2% of their bodyweight in dry matter, consumption of soil-contaminated feed can result in a considerable amount of the feed having no nutritional value, thereby resulting in decreased performance for the animal.

In addition to the risk of impaction, soil contamination can also affect mineral nutrition. Iron from the soil can interfere with copper absorption at 250 parts per million. Also, the bioavailability of minerals from the soil is low. So if you are feeding a forage high in ash, mix it with feeds that have a low ash content to minimize impaction risk and performance losses. Furthermore, if high iron levels are present, increased copper supplementation might be necessary.

In conclusion, ash is an often-overlooked parameter on forage reports. At high levels, it can indicate a soil contamination issue. Soil in forages can reduce forage quality and have a negative impact on livestock health. Monitoring ash levels in forages can be important in identifying areas for forage production improvement as well as ensuring forages are managed and fed out to ensure top-tier nutrition and health for our livestock. To read Rebecca’s full article go to the Progressive Forage website. The direct link is <https://www.agproud.com/topics/102-progressive-forage>

Fescue eradication and improved management increases profits for Central Kentucky Thoroughbred Farm-UK Success Story

A central Kentucky thoroughbred horse farm experienced a high incidence of fescue toxicosis symptoms in pregnant and foaling mares during early 2017. The UK Plant and Soil Science Forage Group was contacted by the farm at the advice of the consulting veterinarian. After a farm visit, the farm agreed to a program of pasture evaluation. Fields were sampled for species composition, endophyte infection level, and ergovaline content. After being presented results showing damaging levels of infected tall fescue, the farm began an aggressive program of fescue eradication in some fields and complete re-establishment in two others. They also changed their pasture usage for foaling mares in the 2018 season to avoid exposure to toxic tall fescue. As a result of the knowledge of fescue presence and fescue eradication in selected pastures, the farm was able to avoid exposing pregnant mares to toxic tall fescue. As a result, the farm experienced no difficulty in foaling (dystocia) and fewer thickened placentas (red bags) and no foal losses due to tall fescue in from 2018-2024. With the high value of thoroughbred horses, dealing with toxic fescue led to substantial improved profitability for the farm. Specialists involved: Jimmy Henning, Ray Smith and Krista Lea

Forage News



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

Upcoming Events (see Forage website for details and to register, click on EVENTS)

Jan. 12-14— AFGC Conference, Orlando, FL

Jan. 17 – Forages at KCA, Owensboro, KY

Jan. 29 – Equines and Endophyte Workshop, Lexington, KY

Feb. 25 - Alfalfa and Stored Forage Conference, Lexington, KY

Feb. 27 – Pastures Please Equine Conference, Lexington, KY

Mar. 6 – Tall Fescue Workshop, Grayson Co Extension office.

April 29-30 – Beginning Grazing School, Logan County

Sept. 24-25 – Intermediate Grazing School, Versailles, KY

Subscribe or access full articles at the UK

Forage Website
www.forages.ca.uky.edu

Apple Sage Pork Chops

- **1 tablespoon** flour
- **1 teaspoon** dried sage
- **2 tablespoons** garlic powder
- **1/2 teaspoon** ground thyme
- **1 teaspoon** salt
- **4** boneless center cut pork chops
- **2 tablespoons** oil
- **1/2** large onion, thinly sliced
- **2** thinly sliced red apples
- **1 cup** unsweetened apple juice
- **2 tablespoons** brown sugar (optional)

Wash hands with soap and warm water, **scrubbing** for at least 20 seconds. **Gently clean** all produce under cool running water. **Mix** flour, sage, garlic, thyme, and salt together in a small bowl. **Sprinkle** 1 1/2 tablespoons of the mixture over both sides of the pork chops. Remember to **wash** hands after handling raw meat. **Heat** oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. **Sear** pork chops for 2 to 3 minutes on each side. Pan will smoke a little. **Remove** pork chops from the pan and set aside. **Reduce** heat to medium. To the same skillet, **add** onion and **cook** for 2 minutes, or until soft. **Add** apples, and **continue cooking** until tender, about 2 minutes. **Add** apple juice, brown sugar, and remaining spice mixture and stir to dissolve. **Return** pork chops to the skillet by nestling them in the pan. **Bring** the liquid to a boil, **reduce** heat to low, and **simmer** for 5 minutes or until the pork is cooked through and reaches 145 degrees F on a food thermometer. **Refrigerate** leftovers within 2 hours.

Yield: 4 servings. **Nutrition Analysis:** 310 calories, 10g total fat, 1.5g saturated fat, 50mg cholesterol, 660mg sodium, 35g total carbohydrate, 3g fiber, 25g total sugars, 7g added sugars, 22g protein, 6% DV vitamin D, 2% DV calcium, 6% DV iron, 15% DV potassium.



Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops (MASC) Program



Overview

The MASC program, administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) using Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) funds, provides eligible specialty crop producers with marketing assistance payments to help them engage in activities that aid in expanding domestic specialty crop markets or in developing new markets for their specialty crops in 2025.

Who is Eligible

To be eligible for payments, persons or legal entities must:

- ◆ Be in the business of producing a specialty crop at the time of application and be entitled to an ownership share and share in the risk of producing a specialty crop that will be sold in calendar year 2025;
- ◆ Be a U.S. citizen, resident alien, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, or other organizational structure organized under State law, Indian Tribe or Tribal Organization, or a foreign person or foreign entity who meets certain eligibility requirements;
- ◆ Comply with the provisions of the "Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation" regulations, often called the conservation compliance provisions;
- ◆ Not have a controlled substance violation;
- ◆ Submit a complete MASC application form (FSA-1140) and provide all required documentation as specified in the documents section below.

To be eligible for payments, a person or legal entity must have an average adjusted gross income (AGI) of less than \$900,000 for tax years 2021, 2022, and 2023, unless the person or legal entity's average adjusted gross farm income is at least 75 percent of their average AGI.

Eligible Crops

MASC covers the following commercially marketed specialty crops:

SPECIALTY CROPS	
Fruits (fresh, dried)	Nursery crops, Christmas trees, and floriculture
Vegetables (including dry edible beans and peas, mushrooms, and vegetable seed)	Culinary and medicinal herbs and spices
Tree nuts	Honey, hops, maple sap, tea, turfgrass, and grass seed.

Common examples of specialty crops can be found [online](#).

Ineligible Crops

The following are examples of ineligible crops:

FIELD AND GRAIN CROPS	
OILSEED CROPS	
FORAGE, HAY, AND COVER CROPS	
OTHER SPECIFIC CROPS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Cotton ◆ Cottonseed ◆ Forage crops ◆ Grain crops ◆ Hemp ◆ Kochia (prostrata) ◆ Lespedeza ◆ Milkweed ◆ Oilseeds ◆ Peanuts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Primrose ◆ Seed of ineligible crops (other than grass seed) ◆ Sugar beets ◆ Sugarcane ◆ Tobacco ◆ Crops with an intended use of fallow, forage, grazing, green manure, or left standing
OTHER PRODUCTS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Aquatic animal species (such as fish and shellfish) ◆ Dairy products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Eggs ◆ Livestock products ◆ Tofu

How to Apply

Eligible producers can apply by completing the FSA-1140, Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops (MASC) Application, and submitting it to any FSA county office by **January 8, 2025**.

A complete application includes all of the following:

FSA-1140, Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops (MASC) Application

- ◆ Producers must complete and sign the MASC application and submit it to any Farm Service Agency county office nationwide. The producer must certify to their specialty crop sales for calendar year 2023 or 2024, or for New Producers only, 2025 expected sales (See New Producer definition and requirements below) on the FSA-1141.

FSA-1141, Marketing Assistance For Specialty Crops (MASC) New Producer Expected Sales Worksheet (New producers only)

- ◆ New producers must complete and sign the new producer expected sales worksheet and provide along with their FSA-1140 to any Farm Service Agency county office nationwide.

AD-2047, Customer Data Worksheet

- ◆ This form will be filled out for all individuals and legal entities (including entity members) who have not previously provided their personal information to USDA that positively identifies the customer.

CCC-902, Farm Operating Plan

- ◆ Individual and legal entities will fill out the CCC-902 to facilitate the administration of the payment limitation and eligibility requirements, including providing members' names and taxpayer identification numbers.

CCC-941, Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information

- ◆ This form is required for the 2025 program year for the person or legal entity, including the legal entity's members, partners, shareholders, heirs or beneficiaries, if not already on file.

FSA-942, Certification of Income from Farming, Ranching and Forestry Operations, if applicable, for the producer and members of entities

- ◆ This form may be used by persons or legal entities that exceed the average AGI \$900,000 threshold. Persons or legal entities may otherwise meet AGI requirements if the person or legal entity's average adjusted gross farm income is at least 75 percent of their average AGI.

AD-1026, Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELIC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification

- ◆ All applicants, and their affiliates, must complete the AD-1026. The form must be completed in its entirety.

Specialty Crop Sales

Eligible specialty crop sales only include sales of commercially marketed raw specialty crops grown in the United States by the producer. The portion of sales derived from adding value to a specialty crop (such as sorting, processing, or packaging) is not included in eligible sales. To be considered a specialty crop sale, the producer must have received payment for the specialty crop during the applicable calendar year.



Federal crop insurance indemnities and NAP payments for the 2023 or 2024 crop year will be included as eligible specialty crop sales for the applicable crop year, regardless of when they were received by the producer.

Other Documentation

If requested by FSA, producers must provide documentation to support their reported specialty crop sales. Examples of documentation to support reported sales includes, but is not limited to:

- ◆ sales receipts;
- ◆ sales records;
- ◆ ledgers of income;
- ◆ contract or sales agreements;
- ◆ income statements of deposit slips;
- ◆ register tapes with supporting documentation acceptable to FSA;
- ◆ purchase orders;
- ◆ third party processor or distributor statements;
- ◆ contemporaneous diaries that are determined acceptable by USDA;
- ◆ other sales documents indicating the crop was sold; and
- ◆ IRS Schedule F accompanied by documentation to support that the reported amounts are from sales of specialty crops.

Note: New producers reporting expected 2025 sales must provide FSA-1141 and supporting documentation by the application deadline.

New Producers

You may be considered a new producer if you:

- ◆ Began producing specialty crops in 2023 or 2024 but did not have sales due to the immaturity of the crop;
- ◆ Began producing specialty crops in 2024 but did not have a complete year of sales; or
- ◆ Are beginning to grow specialty crops in 2025.

Payments for new producers will be based on their expected 2025 calendar year specialty crop sales. New producers must submit FSA-1141 and documentation to substantiate expected specialty crop sales and their ability to grow, harvest, and market the expected yield or inventory in 2025 by the MASC application deadline of **January 8, 2025**.

Examples of expected production inventory, yield, and unit price includes, but is not limited to:

- ◆ sales contracts;
- ◆ settlement sheets;
- ◆ purchase agreements;
- ◆ local market prices;
- ◆ market agreements;
- ◆ FCIC yields and prices;

Examples of expected production inventory, yield, and unit price includes, but is not limited to *(continued)*:

- ♦ FSA National Crop Table data;
- ♦ Appraisals;
- ♦ Cooperative Extension Service and university data;
- ♦ financial institution documentation;
- ♦ National Agriculture Statistics Services data;
- ♦ Federal crop insurance documents;
- ♦ historical yield data;
- ♦ sales receipts;
- ♦ invoices;
- ♦ copies of signed written lease;
- ♦ copies of legal documents showing land ownership or control of rented land;
- ♦ rental agreements with landowner or landlord;
- ♦ input records; and
- ♦ financial documents, such as a business plans or cash flow statement, that demonstrate an expected level of sales.

Payment Limitation and Attribution

- ♦ Payments are subject to a payment limitation of \$125,000. FSA will issue MASC payments after the end of the application period.
- ♦ Direct attribution provisions apply to MASC. Under direct attribution, any payment to a legal entity will also be considered for payment limitation purposes to be a payment to persons or legal entities with an interest in the legal entity or in a sub-entity.

Payment Calculation

MASC payments will be calculated based on the producer's total specialty crop sales for the calendar year elected by the producer. The total specialty crop sales reported by the producer will be separated into sale ranges (tiers) shown in Table 1. After the end of the application period, a payment factor will be determined and applied to each tier. If demand for MASC payments exceeds available funding, either MASC payments may be prorated, the payment limitation may be lowered, or both. If proration or a reduction of the payment limitation is necessary, the reduction or lowered payment limitation will apply equally to all MASC participants.

Table 1—Sales Ranges

Sales Range	Percent Payment Factor (to be determined after application period ends)
Up to \$49,999	<i>a</i>
\$50,000 - \$99,999	<i>b</i>
\$100,000 - \$499,999	<i>c</i>
\$500,000 - \$999,999	<i>d</i>
All sales over \$1 million	<i>e</i>

To calculate a MASC payment, the following steps will be taken:

1. Multiply the amount of sales in each range in Table 1 by the determined percent payment factor for that range; and
 2. Calculate the sum of the results for each sales range. For example, if a producer reported \$450,000 of total specialty crop sales, the calculated payment would equal to the sum of the following:
 - \$49,999 (the amount of sales in the first range) multiplied by the determined percent payment factor *a*;
 - \$50,000 (the amount of sales in the second range) multiplied by percent payment factor *b*; and
 - \$350,001 (the amount of sales in the third range) multiplied by percent payment factor *c*.
- Final payments are subject to demand and available funding.

Application Deadline: **January 8, 2025**

Where to Apply

The MASC application and associated forms are available online at fsa.usda.gov/marketing-assistance-specialty-crops. FSA staff at your local USDA Service Center will work with you to file your applications. Applications may be submitted by mail, fax, hand delivery, or via electronic means.

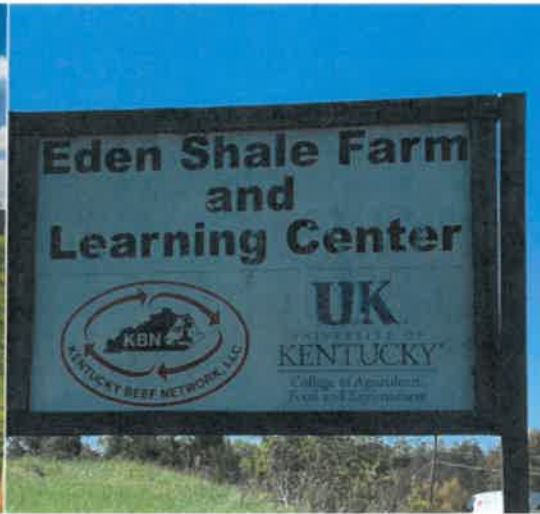
For More Information

This fact sheet is for informational purposes only; other restrictions may apply. For more information on MASC or assistance with applications, contact your local FSA office or visit the FSA website at fsa.usda.gov. To find your local office, go to farmers.gov/service-center-locator.

USDA may prorate final payments, reduce the payment limitation, or both if total calculated payments exceed the total funding allocated for MASC.

Click here for more information on Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA); Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops.

Eden Shale Farm Tour



APRIL 25, 2025
10:30AM - TOUR

 **To register call
859-498-8741**

The Montgomery County Extension Office is attempting to get a group together to tour the UK/KBN Eden Shale Farm. Eden Shale is a demonstration farm that highlights many innovative practical ideas you can adopt on your farms. For example, farm layout, fence line feeders, livestock water collection, fencing ideas & forage management.

ATTENTION PLEASE 

BUS SPACES ARE LIMITED TO THE FIRST 24 PEOPLE THAT REGISTER & REQUEST A SEAT IN THE BUS. THE BUS WILL LEAVE THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE AT 8:30AM

IF THEY ARE FULL WE CAN MAKE A PLAN FOR THE EXTENSION VAN

REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY: APRIL 4, 2025

**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. Programs and services may be made available in languages other than English.

University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, UK Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.
Lexington, KY 40506



Beginners Beekeeping Workshop

Join us for this **FREE** workshop taught by Larry Young, Past Kentucky Beekeeper of the Year and President of the Clark & Powell Beekeepers Association.

Great for anyone interested in beekeeping or as a refresher for existing beekeepers!

Topics will include:

- What to expect the first year of beekeeping
- Beekeeping equipment costs
- Pest and diseases of bees
- Selecting a site for your hive
- And much more!

6:30 p.m.

**January 30th,
February 6th, 13th,
20th, and 27th**

**at the Montgomery
County Extension
Education Center
104 E. Locust St.,
Mount Sterling**

**For more information or to register, contact the
Montgomery County Extension Office, 859-498-8741**

**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

Education programs of Kentucky's Cooperative Extension Service are provided to all people regardless of race, ethnicity, sex, age, religion, marital status, national origin, ancestry, color, political beliefs, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, pregnancy, childbirth status, information on, or information about, physical or mental disability or physical or mental condition for equal and full societal participation. An additional fee for disability may be assessed for certain services. For more information, contact your local Extension office. 2014-2015. University of Kentucky, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service. Extension 4-H 10108



Disabled
Access Only
with your notification

Area Teen Retreat

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



January 30-31 at Boyd County
Extension Franks Building

Join area teens for a time of community
service, team building and networking!



Deadline to register-
January 10th
Registration \$60

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 receipt 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.



4-H HORSE JUDGING

Practice Times

January 7 - 3:30 pm
Horse Parts, Breeds, Movement

January 15 - Google Classroom
1 Class of Halter Horses
& Questions

February 4 - 3:30 pm
Discuss Google Classroom - Movement
Performance Class - Set of Reasons

February 12 - Google Classroom
Google Classroom - Pattern Class

State Contest

June 17 - Locust Trace -
Lexington - All Day

Field Trips

March 8 - UK Campus

April - TBA

May - TBA

Google Classroom assignments are due the Monday after they are assigned. In person classes are held in Ms. Lane's room at the high school. Youth must get 6 hours of 4-H Horse Education to be able to participate.



4-H LIVESTOCK

Judging Practice

Learn how to evaluate livestock
and how to give a verbal
description of why.



JUDGING PRACTICE

January 13 - 3:30pm

Parts, Breeds, Terminology

January 22 - Google Classroom

1 Class of Sheep and 5 Questions

February 10 - 3:30pm

Discuss Google Classroom - Hogs
and Goats Questions.

February 19 - 3:30pm

Google Classroom - Breeding Hogs
Set of Reasons.

**Google Classroom assignments are due the Monday after they are assigned.
In person classes are held in Ms. Lane's room at the high school.**

CONTEST

State 4-H Livestock Judging

May 31, 2025 all day

FIELD TRIPS

Hogs March - TBD

Sheep March - TBD

Beef April - TBD

Goat April - TBD

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

