

CARTER COUNTY AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWSLETTER



Carter County

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November & December 2025

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Highlights:

⇒ To help conserve resources, newsletters will be mailed bimonthly. An email update will be provided every month. If you do not currently get the email updates please visit <http://eepurl.com/g9Ho6D> to sign up or contact us at Rebecca.k@uky.edu or 474-6686.

⇒ Congratulations to East KY Hay Contest Winners Frank Suttles, Buck & Billy Joe Rayburn.



Enjoy your newsletter,

Rebecca Konopka

Rebecca Konopka,
Carter County Extension Agent for
Agriculture & Natural Resources

**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



A small icon of a person in a wheelchair. Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

Upcoming Events

Denotes events where preregistration is required. Call 474-6686 or email Rebecca.k@uky.edu to register.

More details available at <https://carter.ca.uky.edu/anr>.

Ag Advancement Council

Mon, Nov 10, 6:00pm	Carter County Extension Office
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District Board

Tue, Nov 11, 10:00am	Carter County Extension Office
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Emergency Calf Care

Tue, Nov 18, 6:00pm	MSU Farm Classroom
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Little Sandy Beekeepers Association

Tue, Dec 2, 6:30pm	Carter County Extension Office
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Topic: Bee Brains

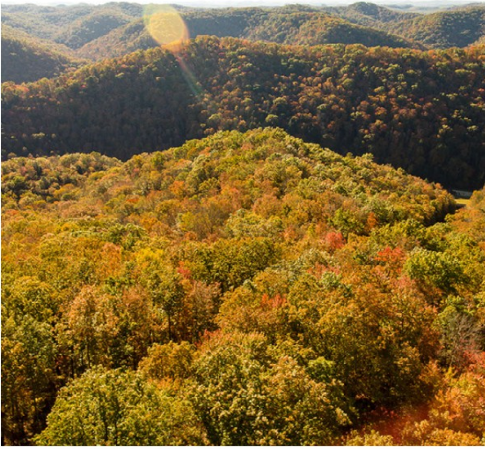
Northeast Area Livestock Association Meeting

Tue, Dec 9, 6:00pm	Carter County Extension Office
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Join Brett Wolff, Senior Extension Specialist from the UK Department of Agricultural Economics for a talk on how farmers can start selling their products directly to customers. He will share easy-to-use techniques and tips that work for meat, hay, value-added goods, fruits, vegetables, and more. This session is a great way to learn simple steps to grow your market and reach more people.

Little Sandy Beekeepers Association

Tue, Jan 6, 6:30pm	Carter County Extension Office
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November

Time to prepare for winter

Review winter feeding plan.

Ensure that winter feeding area is a least 100 to 150 ft. away from streams, wells, sink holes, etc.

Inspect water systems in preparation for winter months. Protect from freezing.

Limit access to streams/ponds during winter feeding period.

Ensure safe dependable water sources throughout the winter period.



UK Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

LIVESTOCK PREDATOR CONTROL PROGRAM

Thursday January
22, 2026 -6pm
Boyd County
Franks Building

**Save the Date! More
details coming soon!**

**DR. MATTHEW SPRINGER,
LIVESTOCK PREDATOR CONTROL**

BLACK VULTURE PERMIT PROCESS

**BLACK VULTURE EFFIGY- HANDS
ON ACTIVITY**





Emergency Calf Care

Tuesday, Nov. 18 at 6:00 PM

Morehead State University Farm
Classroom
25 MSU Farm Drive
Morehead, KY 40351

Highlights:

- Guest Speaker – Dr. Phil Prater, Retired MSU DVM
- How to Tube Feed a Calf

For more information call your local
Extension Office at 474-6686.

Weather Driven Decisions for Livestock Producers Northeast Area Livestock Association



Free Soybean Cyst Nematode Testing (paid for by KY Soybean Promotion Board):

The best time to test for soybean cyst nematode is between harvest and planting over the Fall, Winter, and early Spring months. Testing fields that were just in soybean this year or that will be going into soybean next spring are good places to start! If you are interested in SCN testing please contact the Extension Office.

UK 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. (If you have previously registered, you do not need to re-register). You will receive an invitation and password the morning of the presentation. Zoom will start at 8:00 Eastern/7:00 Central.



November 13

Winter Feeding Approaches: Matching Strategy to Your Herd and Resources - Dr. Katie VanValin, Assistant Professor, University of Kentucky



December 11

Shooting the Bull: Answering all your Beef-Related Questions! - Updates and Roundtable discussion



January 8

Making the Most of the Good Years: Profits, Reinvestment, and Tax Management in Beef Cattle - Jonathan Shepherd, Agricultural Extension Specialist, University of Kentucky



February 12

Impact of Bull Nutrition During Development on Semen Quality - Dr. Pedro Fontes, Associate Professor, University of Georgia



March 12

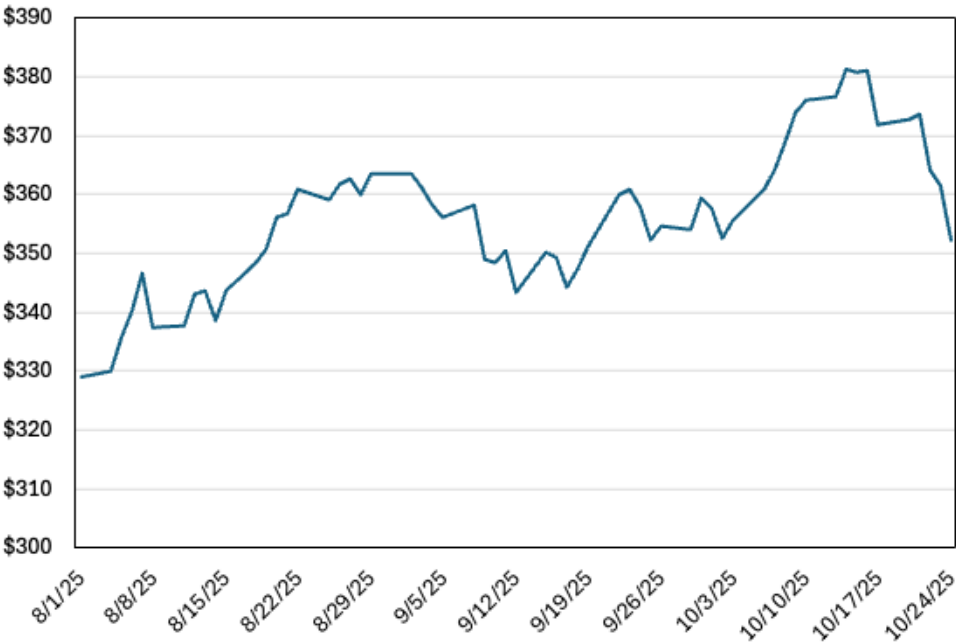
Bull Selection Practices in Kentucky: What are we Doing Right and What Could we Improve! - Dr. Darrh Bullock, Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

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.

Cattle Markets React to Policy Uncertainty on Beef and Cattle Imports

By: James Mitchell, University of Arkansas; Kenny Burdine, University of Kentucky; & Josh Maples, Mississippi State University Extension; Published October 27, 2025

November 2025 CME Feeder Cattle Futures Contract
August 1 - October 24, 2025
Source: CME, LMIC



Feeder and Live Cattle futures have fallen sharply over the past 12 days. The CME December Live Cattle futures contract closed at \$247.88 per cwt on October 16 but is trading today (October 27th) near \$224 per cwt. The CME November Feeder Cattle futures contract closed at \$380.95 per cwt on October 16 and is now trading below \$339 per cwt. This period has included multiple limit-down days in the futures market. The goal of this article is to provide context for some of the key questions circulating during this market swing. We certainly don't claim to have definitive answers as the situation remains fluid and will continue to evolve.

Argentina Beef Imports

The market shock began on October 16, following President Trump's suggestion that there was a plan to lower beef prices. As more information

emerged, it appeared that the proposal centered on increasing beef imports from Argentina. Specifically, the plan would expand the Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) from 20,000 metric tons to 80,000 metric tons for Argentina beef, effectively quadrupling the volume of Argentina beef that could enter the U.S. market. Understandably, this announcement has caused considerable concern among market participants.

Could Higher Imports from Argentina Impact Beef Prices?

The short answer is: likely very little. The U.S. is already importing larger-than-normal volumes of beef due to low domestic production and historically low cattle numbers. Year to date through July, beef imports totaled 3.4 billion pounds, up 30% from the same period last year. The September World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) forecast 2025 U.S. beef imports at 5.4 billion pounds, or about 18.4% of total U.S. beef disappearance. The proposed TRQ increase for Argentina—an additional 60,000 metric tons—would account for less than 1% of total disappearance, even if fully utilized.

It is also important to recognize that “beef” is not a single product but a diverse portfolio of products serving different market segments. The U.S. imports primarily lean manufacturing beef used in ground beef production, while the domestic industry produces a larger share of grain-fed, high-quality cuts. As a result, imports tend to supplement the domestic ground beef market rather than directly compete in the U.S. grain-fed beef market. Both the volume and composition of imports are critical for assessing their impact on domestic beef prices and it’s hard to see how either would drastically change overall volume or import composition in the United States.

Live Cattle Imports

Markets also had to react to news about a potential meeting this week between the U.S. and Mexico to discuss a possible reopening of the southern border to live cattle imports. The U.S.-Mexico border was first closed to live animal trade on November 2024 following a detection of New World Screwworm in Mexico and remains closed today. Between February and May 2025, when the border was briefly open, weekly feeder cattle imports from Mexico averaged 14,900 head—about 43% lower than the 2020-2024 weekly average.

If a hypothetical agreement were reached to reopen the border, it would likely occur gradually and involve limited entry. In addition, many of the cattle that would have been exported while the border was closed have already entered alternative marketing channels. Therefore, there is little evidence of a significant backlog of Mexican cattle awaiting import. Even if some inventories were available, a phased reopening would somewhat limit any increase in supply that could disrupt U.S. cattle markets.

Have the Fundamentals Changed?

To be clear, recent developments have certainly impacted cattle markets, but they have not materially changed the underlying fundamentals. The U.S. still faces historically tight cattle supplies and lower beef production. While beef cow slaughter has declined notably in 2025, there is little indication of widespread beef heifer retention. When herd rebuilding does begin, fewer animals will enter the beef supply chain in the near term, further tightening supplies. Beef supplies are tight now and will be tighter in 2026. Heifer retention is the key to longer term cattle and beef supply expansion and that is a multi-year process.

It is still too soon to determine the full impact of these market shocks on cash cattle markets. Prices for 500- to 600-pound steers were mostly 1% to 3% lower last week, with a few exceptions. Heavier feeder cattle prices also declined 1% to 3%. The CME Feeder Cattle Index was down 2.5%, or \$9 per cwt from the previous week. Given that cattle futures were down sharply today (October 27th), continued weakness in cash markets is very possible this week. While this is more significant than a seasonal decline, it is worth noting that the prices of heavy feeders tend to decrease as we move through fall and approach winter. Regardless, the last couple of weeks have spoken to the importance of price risk management and stakeholders should pay close attention as things continue to develop.



Sanitation Practices for Vegetable Growers

By: Dr. Nicole Gauthier

Autumn has arrived in Kentucky, and it is time to focus on vegetable field, greenhouse, and high tunnel sanitation. Good sanitation practices can help reduce disease-causing pathogens. These organisms can survive for months or years on dead plant material or in soil, causing infections in subsequent years. Elimination of disease-causing organisms reduces the need for fungicides and can improve the effectiveness of disease management practices. Following these sanitation practices both in autumn and throughout the growing season can reduce disease pressure in commercial vegetable plantings.



SANITATION PRACTICES

- ⇒ Remove all plants and debris, including fallen fruit, once harvest is complete.
- ⇒ All diseased plant material should be burned, buried, or taken off-site. Do not compost diseased plant material.
- ⇒ Remove weeds, including roots, which may serve as alternative hosts for pathogens.
- ⇒ Remove landscape fabric or mulch.
- ⇒ Clean and sanitize trellises, tools, benches, and equipment. Additional information on methods for cleaning and sanitizing are available in the following publications from the Extension Office:
 - ◇ Cleaning & Disinfecting Hand Tools & Planting Supplies ([PPFS-GEN-17](#))
 - ◇ Cleaning & Sanitizing Commercial Greenhouse Surfaces ([PPFS-GH-07](#))
- ⇒ Deep-till soil to bury residual pathogens.
- ⇒ When possible, rotate to crops in other plant families to reduce pathogen build-up.
- ⇒ Solarize soil in high tunnels during summer to kill soil-borne pathogens.

Get Your Ounce of (Weed Seed) Prevention This Fall

October 14, 2025 - Article by Emily Unglesbee, GROW

As the growing season winds down, it can be tempting to take your foot off the gas and coast into winter, leaving weed management in the rear view mirror.

But don't forget that mirror's warning – weed seeds are closer than they appear this time of year! They lurk not just in your soils, but in your grain silos, your ditches, hay bales, and wedged inside your equipment, including tractors, sprayers, mowers, combines, trucks, trailers, cultivators and even manure spreaders.

[GROW's Prevention webpage](https://growiwm.org/prevention/) (<https://growiwm.org/prevention/>) takes readers through the nitty gritty details of where and how weed seeds embed themselves into the very fabric of a farm each year. The page hits on each of these potential weed seed refuges – as well as many more:

- ⇒ [Birds](#): Did you know many species of birds can eat and then transport viable seeds in their digestive tracks?
- ⇒ [Irrigation or Rainwater](#): Some seeds are specifically designed to raft their way to a new life in a new field.
- ⇒ [Manure](#): Seeds can be found both in manure and on the spreaders that apply it.
- ⇒ [Bales](#): Baling gathers up any seeds present in the field at haying time.
- ⇒ [Grain](#): Likewise, weed seeds often join grain in combines, trailers and silos.
- ⇒ [Tillage equipment](#): Weed seeds can easily hitch a ride on cultivators and other tillage implements.

- ⇒ [Planters](#): Planters are full of fun hiding spots for weed seeds, like disk openers and gauge wheels.
- ⇒ [Combines](#): Likewise, combines are famous for turning into weed seed spreading machines in the fall.
- ⇒ [Mowers](#): Let the picture below speak a thousand words about the ability of mowers to move seeds to greener pastures.

While growers can't control all these factors, there are ways to clean out equipment and silos. Pay special attention to combines this time of year, and consider using '[The Straw Bale Methodology](#)' for deep cleaning those hard-to-catch weed seeds, shown in the video at <https://youtu.be/UZH6S7OFuJU>.



Weed seeds — some having germinated — hitch a ride across the farm on a mower deck. (Photo credit: Michael Flessner, Virginia Tech)

Pesticide Applicators Label Awareness

Article from Tad Campbell, UK Pesticide Safety Program

What are some new requirements applicators might find on pesticide labels?

The pesticide label is a legal agreement between the manufacturer and applicator for using the product. Requirements within the label AND labelling must legally be followed by applicators. Newer requirements pesticide applicators are finding on pesticide labels is references to visit websites. The label directs applicators to visit specific websites to obtain further information about the product being used. The websites allow use protocols for products to be updated more quickly. The information found on the websites is an extension of the label and legally required for proper product use.

Two websites most often referenced on labels are Bulletins Live! Two and the EPA Mitigation Menu website. These websites provide applicators with added information about product use requirements. Applicators must visit the websites when directed by the label to assess added requirements when using certain products with website references.

Bulletins Live! Two is a website designed to provide added protections to endangered species and habitats based on application areas with known endangered species. The website provides a map for applicators to select the application site to determine if additional requirements exist for applying specific products via generated bulletins. Applicators must visit the website within 6 months PRIOR to planned applications to determine if any additional bulletins exist. The applicator would print the bulletin and follow requirements within the bulletin as an extension of the label. Areas with shaded areas on the map are called PULAs or pesticide use limitation areas. Applications within shaded areas on the map will generate detailed bulletins with additional requirements to the label that must be followed by the applicator. Even if no bulletins are generated but the label required visiting the website, applicators should print the generated form as a record of compliance with the label.

The EPA Mitigation Menu is also referenced by some product labels for runoff/erosion mitigation or ecological spray drift buffer reduction. These processes require the applicator to access application sites prior to use to determine if the product can be used in the case of runoff mitigation or to

determine if an ecological spray buffer can be reduced. For buffer reduction the label or bulletin must allow for ecological reduction AND direct applicators to the mitigation menu website. With runoff mitigation, applicators will assess the application area based on implemented mitigation measures. The label/bulletin will require a minimum number of points (1-9) to be achieved before the product can be used on the application site. After assessment, if the minimum number of points is obtained or exceeded the product can be used at that site.

The EPA has developed a set of tools that can be used by applicators for assessment of runoff mitigation and spray drift buffer reduction. Tables and paper forms can be printed from the Mitigation Menu website as well as an excel calculator can be downloaded to assess application sites. The excel calculator allows applicators to save digital records to files after assessment. A new online tool recently offered by EPA is the PALM - pesticide app for label mitigation. This tool allows applicators to assess runoff mitigation and/or spray drift buffer reduction by answering questions about the application. After completing the questions, a summary page is generated that can be printed or captured for record compliance. The online tool does not save information submitted but allows applicators to assess application sites and generate a record. The tool is compatible with most smart phones allowing more options for assessment.

References to websites by the label are going to be more common as we move into the future. The websites are an extension of the label and requirements found on websites are legal obligations to be followed as part of the label. If you have questions, contact your local Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources.



**East
KY
Hay
Contest
Sample
Processing**



UK Cooperative
Extension Service

ESTATE PLANNING

Key Steps to Start Your Estate Plan

1. Define all assets (tangible and intangible)
2. Assess finances, calculating net worth and farm profitability
3. Identify beneficiaries and goals for the estate and business
4. Gather important documents (deeds, titles, tax returns, etc.) and secure them in an accessible place.

Contact your local county Extension office for more resources, including an estate planning worksheet.

An Equal Opportunity Organization.

October Hike & Learn Limestone Knob



 Cooperative
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10 Steps to a Woodland Management Plan



1. Identify goals and objectives
2. Conduct a woodland inventory
3. Revisit and modify objectives
4. Map and describe areas
5. Designate management areas
6. Schedule of activities
7. Implement management practices
8. Monitor and record
9. Adjust and update goals
10. Enjoy your woodlands!

**To learn more, contact your
local County Extension Office
or visit for comprehensive
resources on Woodland
Management Plans.**

*Source: Jacob Muller, Extension Specialist and Assistant Professor
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WINTER CHICKEN COOP PREPARATION



Chickens can experience cold stress when the environment's chill overwhelms their natural heat generation. Look for feather fluffing, huddling, and tucking a foot up. This stress impairs well-being and may be fatal.

Chicken Coop Winter Prep:

- Provide elevated wooden perches
- Ensure ventilation to prevent moisture
- Insulate the coop
- Monitor for breed-specific vulnerabilities
- Increase feed for energy and ensure continuous access to water
- Use supplementary light to maintain egg production

Source: Jacqueline Jacob, UK Extension Project Manager
An Equal Opportunity Organization.