

Jefferson County Agriculture Newsletter March 2018



Cooperative Extension Service

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Now is the Time for Sampling Soil

This is a good time to prepare your soil for reaping good produce! Bring 2 cups of dry soil to our office and we will send it to Lexington for testing. You will receive information about all the nutrients in your soil, along with recommendations for amending your soil. The cost is \$7.00. We also send soil to UMass for lead testing, in case you are planning an in ground garden. The cost is \$17.00 and is quite inclusive. (We can only accept checks or money orders.) The results will give you a routine soil analysis along with the heavy metal testing. It also gives recommendations if lead is found. I will be checking the results of this type of testing and, if lead is found, will go over them personally with you.

Cultivating Accessible Opportunities for Veterans in Agriculture: A Beginning Farmer Training

This event will be held on April 14th, 2018 from 8:00-5:00 at Kentucky State University Research Farm, 1525 Mills Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601. Breakfast and lunch are provided. The training is a great opportunity for veterans, so consider it if you are a veteran or let another veteran know about it. Be sure to register early, as space is limited.

UK Researchers to Study Pollinator Food Availability on Farmland

Check out the link below to find out how UK researchers are evaluating how spring food availability on farmlands impacts bees. So important to agriculture!

<https://news.ca.uky.edu/article/uk-researchers-study-pollinator-food-availability-farmland>

The following article shares information about the Census of Agriculture:

Closing the Loop: Surveys to Reports

Cooperative Extension Service
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.

LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

By: David Knopf

Director, NASS Eastern Mountain Regional Field Office

NASS conducts more than 400 surveys every year as part of our mission to provide useful, accurate data in a timely manner to the agricultural community. We always encourage all producers to sign up to receive reports that come out of those surveys. Getting the report closes the loop for producers who've responded to surveys and want to see the data, but it also provides valuable information to all producers who are represented by the sample answering the surveys. Those interested can visit the state web pages and click the link to receive NASS reports as they come out. As always individual responses to surveys are kept confidential, and the data is provided in aggregate form so that no individual operation or farmer is identified.

Our largest survey, the Census of Agriculture, is still ongoing. The CoA, conducted every five years, is the only source of uniform, comprehensive and impartial agricultural data for every county in the nation. It's a complete count of U.S. farms and the people who operate them. From small plots of urban and rural land to large farms with thousands of acres, the Census counts them all plus looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, and income and expenditures. If you haven't responded yet, there's still time. In order to have the most complete, accurate data, we need every farmer to respond. Data from the 2017 Census of Agriculture will be available in February 2019.

Below are data from NASS surveys conducted in the 2017 fall and winter.

Kentucky Winter Wheat County Estimates

Kentucky farmers harvested 23.9 million bushels of winter wheat in 2017, down 25 percent from the previous year. Yield averaged 77 bushels per acre, down three bushels from 2016. Area harvested for grain totaled 310,000 acres. Acres for other uses totaled 170,000. Kentucky ranks 14th in the nation in winter wheat production.

The top five counties in production are:

Christian County – 4,222,000 bushels

Logan County – 3,382,000 bushels

Todd County – 2,330,000 bushels

Simpson County – 1,966,000 bushels

Graves County – 1,364,000 bushels.



The top five counties for yield are:

Wayne County – 84.4 bushels per acre

Meade County – 83.8 bushels per acre

Union County – 83.1 bushels per acre

Caldwell County – 82.8 bushels per acre

Daviess County – 81.2 bushels per acre.

Upcoming county estimates release dates:

Corn and Soybeans – Feb. 22, 2018

Hay – April 19, 2018

Tobacco – April 26, 2018



Kentucky 2017 Crop Production Summary

Corn production estimated at 217 million bushels, down two percent from 2016. Corn yield estimated at 178 bushels per acre, up 19 bushels from 2016.

Acres for harvest as grain were estimated at 1.22 million acres, down 180,000 acres from 2016.

The corn yield set a new record high, besting the previous record in 2015 by six bushels. The 2017 corn production ranks as the fifth largest corn crop in the Commonwealth.

Soybean production estimated at 103 million bushels, up 16 percent from 2016. Soybean yield estimated at 53 bushels per acre, up three bushels from 2016.

Acreage for harvest as beans was estimated at 1.94 million acres, up 160,000 acres from 2016.

The soybean yield surpassed the previous 50-bushels-per-acre levels achieved in 2013 and 2016. Soybean production for 2017 is the largest ever on record in Kentucky, outpacing the previous record by 16 percent.

Burley tobacco production estimated at 129 million pounds, up 21 percent from 2016. Yield was estimated at 2,050 pounds per acre, up 300 pounds from the 2016 crop.

Harvested acreage was estimated at 63,000 acres, up 2,000 acres from 2016's crop.

Dark fire-cured tobacco production estimated at 38 million pounds, up 74 percent from 2016.

Dark air-cured tobacco production is estimated at 16.2 million pounds, up 111 percent from last year.

Alfalfa hay production forecast at 525,000 tons, down three percent from the 2016 level.

Other hay production estimated at 4.8 million tons, down five percent from last year.

To see the complete 2017 Crop Production Summary, visit

<https://release.nass.usda.gov/reports/cropan18.pdf>.

Kentucky Cattle Inventory as of Jan. 1, 2018

All cattle: 2,160,000; down 10,000 from 2017

Beef cows: 1,030,000; up 10,000 from 2017

Milk cows: 57,000; unchanged from 2017

As always, you can contact the NASS Eastern Mountain Regional Field Office in Kentucky with any questions or concerns about surveys and reports. We like hearing from our producers and data users.

nassrfoemr@nass.usda.gov

(800) 928-5277

Interested in Joining a Community Garden?

Jefferson County Extension helps coordinate 10 community gardens, with plots ranging from 10 x 20 to 30 x 30, available from \$10 - \$20 per year. Think about the satisfaction of growing your own produce just so you know what you're eating, or teaching your child/grandchild about the wonderful science of vegetable gardening.



Interested in Your Own Community Garden?

If you are interested in developing a community garden in your neighborhood, please give me a call and I will work with you to get started. This is where soil sampling is so important. We can check to see if the soil should be tested for more than nutrients – perhaps lead testing would be smart.

If the place where you want to garden has been near an old garage which has been painted with lead paint or has questionable looking soil, it is always a good idea to be sure you are starting with the healthiest soil possible.

Local Farmers Markets

Below is a link to the Jefferson County Farmers Markets. You can decide which is nearest you.

https://louisvilleky.gov/sites/default/files/final_printed_lfma_local_food_resource_guide.pdf



Center for Crop Diversification: <http://www.uky.edu/ccd/>

Marketing for All

Adaptable Marketing Training for Small Farms

Marketing Basics

We'll talk Product, Price, Place, and Promotion as well as key variables specialty crop marketers should consider.

Social Media Basics

This intro course shows how small businesses can use social media to reach new customers and learn about what their clients want.

Basics of Web Design

Designing simple professional online content is now possible for even the most computer illiterate among us. We touch on principles and tools to get you going.

Hands-On Visual Merchandizing

We take a show-don't-tell approach to learning about display design. Participants can brainstorm and discuss the merits of different designs in a hands-on workshop.

Market Signs That Work

Whether you are getting people to your market or business or trying to communicate with them once they've arrived, this workshop can help.

Identifying and Exploring New Markets

There are pros and cons to every market channel. Learn how to find and compare opportunities to grow your business.

Understanding and Using Analytics

Big companies collect BIG data. Learn how you can leverage their technology for your business.

Record Keeping for Specialty Crops

It's not the most exciting course on the list, but record keeping tells you how your business is doing. We focus on basics and making small changes for big results.

Using Price Data to Make More Money

Once you've figured your costs, how do you set your price? We show how to use CCD price data to make sure the price is right.

Value-Added Product Development

Value-added production is one of the big steps many of our producers take. We make sure you know the lay of the land before you get started.

Accepting More Than Just Cash

Customers don't always carry cash any more. We take a look at how and why you may want to think about taking plastic.



Each training lasts ~ 1 hour.

Mix & match topics to meet your group's needs.

To schedule: [email brett.wolff@uky.edu](mailto:brett.wolff@uky.edu) or [call 859-218-4384](tel:859-218-4384)

Kentucky Farm Bureau Members Visit Frankfort, Advocate on Behalf of Agriculture

Kentucky Farm Bureau members made their way to Frankfort during the week of March 8, 2018, to meet with their state legislators during the annual KFB Legislative Drive-In/Food Check-Out Day.

Traditionally, the event has taken place on two separate days; one reserved as an opportunity for KFB members to inform their respective legislators of the organization's priority issues and any legislation they support; the other as a time to bring awareness to food costs in the state and across the country.

The USDA'S Economic Research Service estimates that Americans, on average, spend about 7 percent of their incomes on food each year which means it would take four weeks to earn enough money to pay for a year's supply of food.

As they made their way to the various legislative offices, members discussed several other legislative priorities, including maintaining the sales tax exemptions for production agriculture, opposing freezing the state real property tax rate and supporting the rural secondary and county road aid programs and continuation of the 22.2% allocation of the state gasoline tax revenue for rural roads.

Representative Jonathan Shell, who is the House Majority Floor Leader, said the Drive-In is an excellent example of how the grassroots approach of bringing forth issues to lawmakers works. Shell said "When you have so many constituents from so many different areas of the Commonwealth visiting with legislators with a unified voice, it makes a difference. Agriculture is critical to this state. As legislators, we need to be during our part to help these farm families be successful and ensure a brighter future for Kentucky."

This year's KFB Legislative Drive-In/Food Check-Out Day brought members representing over 85 counties to Frankfort with more than 140 food baskets delivered to lawmakers as well as Governor Matt Bevin.

Source: kyfb.com

12,000 Acres Approved for Kentucky Hemp Growth in 2018

The Kentucky Division of Agriculture say they have approved over 12,000 acres on Kentucky land for hemp growing and research in 2018. The more than 681,000 square feet of greenhouse space will be used to grow and continue the study of the crop.

"Kentucky continues to lead on industrial hemp research, exploring every aspect of this versatile crop" Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles said. "Because of the research conducted by our growers, processors, and universities, I am more optimistic than ever that we can put industrial hemp on a path to widespread commercialization once Congress removes it from the federal list of controlled substances."

Quarles says his department approved 225 applications from growers to receive state permission to grow. In 2017, agriculture officials say the program planted the highest number of acres on record at more than 3,200 acres with the approved 209 applications.

The department says they will also provide law enforcement access to all the greenhouses for inspection to ensure growth is taking place responsibly. Commissioner Quarles said, “Here in Kentucky, we have worked hard with the law enforcement community prove we can have an industrial hemp research pilot program that is consistent with the law.”

Source: Ky-agnews / Press Releases / 2018 / KDA-Hemp-Program-Maintains-Steady Growth



Be Sure to Check out Kentucky Proud

Kentucky Proud is the official state marketing program for agricultural products. There is no charge to joining. As a Kentucky Proud member, you can consult with Kentucky Department of Agriculture marketing specialists; apply for grants and cost share funds; buy promotional items at cost; display the Kentucky Proud logo; and take advantage of many more member benefits. Visit www.kyproud.com to find out more.

When you buy a product with the Kentucky Proud label, you are buying the freshest, most nutritious food possible. You are keeping your dollars close to home and you are helping a Kentucky farm family earn a living. Plus, you are reducing the miles that the food has to travel from the farm to your plate.

Source: www.kyproud.com

Below are some Agricultural links you might find useful:

Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality:

<http://www.uky.edu/bae/sites/www.uky.edu/bae/filesKentucky%20Agriculture%20Water%20Act%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>

<https://kycattle.org>

[College of Ag](#)

[Agricultural Communication Services](#)

[Agricultural Information Center](#)

[KY Master Logger Program](#)

[KY Tobacco Research and Development Center](#)

[Division of Regulatory Services](#)

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