

# Jefferson County Agriculture Newsletter July 2019



## Cooperative Extension Service

Jefferson County  
200 Juneau Drive, Suite 400  
Louisville, KY 40243-2549  
502-569-2344  
Fax: 502-569-1680  
<http://extension.ca.uky.edu>

Well, here we are in July at the half year mark and wondering where the first part of the year went. This spring has brought record amounts of rain. The month of May was the second wettest on record for the U.S, so it has been difficult for farmers to till the fields and plant seeds. Some crops will not be planted because of the weather, so we may see an increase in food prices as a result. (See article below) Please call me if you have any needs or questions. I will be happy to listen! Wayne Long, Jefferson County ANR Agent for Education/County Coordinator, [pwlong@uky.edu](mailto:pwlong@uky.edu), 569-2344

## Be sure to check out your local Farmers Markets!

Louisville, and our surrounding counties, have the best locally grown produce you can get. Buying locally allows you to support small, local farmers and agriculture. It allows you to enjoy seasonal, fresh fruits and vegetables harvested at their peak and brought right to you. The foods from your local farmers are safer, have better taste and you know where it comes from.

Listed below are links to several local farmers markets. You can click on the website and see what they have to offer. Enjoy!

Bardstown Road Farmers Market	<a href="http://www.bardstownroadfarmersmarket.com">www.bardstownroadfarmersmarket.com</a>
Douglass Loop Farmers Market	<a href="http://www.douglassloopfarmersmarket.com">www.douglassloopfarmersmarket.com</a>
East End Farmers Market	<a href="http://www.eastendfm.com">www.eastendfm.com</a>
Eastwood Village Farmers Market	<a href="http://www.eastwoodmarket.com">www.eastwoodmarket.com</a>
Jeffersontown Farmers Market	<a href="http://www.jeffersontownky.com/farmersmarket">www.jeffersontownky.com/farmersmarket</a>
Middletown Farmers Market	<a href="http://fbcmtown.org">http://fbcmtown.org</a>
Norton Commons Farmers Market	<a href="http://www.nortoncommons.com">www.nortoncommons.com</a>
St. Matthews Farmers Market	<a href="https://smfarmersmarket.com">https://smfarmersmarket.com</a>



## Could Heavy Rains Affect Food Prices?



Extreme rain and flooding this spring has made it difficult for farmers to plant their crops. It may also have an effect on food prices later this year.

The month of May was the [second wettest on record](#) for the United States, so it is difficult for farmers to till the fields and plant seeds. Farmers have coined the phrase [#noplant19](#) to describe this year. A small town in Illinois had a [prevent plant party](#).

The [USDA Crop Progress report](#) showed that each state was significantly behind on their planting percentage as of June 10. Farmers are usually done planting all corn by now, but only 83 percent has been planted this year. And it is too late in the season in most states to plant any more. Corn is used as feed for beef and dairy cattle, pigs and chickens. It is also an ingredient in many foods.

“The farm-gate price of corn, beans, wheat is such a small percentage of our food cost. Processing, packaging, transportation and handling is the highest percentage. Yes, it will have some impact on the price but for the most part, I don’t think the consumer is going to see any impact,” said [Dr. Kim Anderson](#), a professor and extension specialist at Oklahoma State University with a focus on wheat and export markets.

Only 60 percent of the U.S. soybean crop was planted compared to the five-year average of 92 percent. Soybeans are used in animal feed, cooking oils and ingredients in many foods. Other crops such as cotton and sorghum are also behind schedule.

Dr. Anderson explained that not only are the prolonged rains causing problems to be able to plant fields, the humidity that accompanies these storms is also hurting the wheat crop that is growing and needs to be harvested at this time of year. Because of this, there will be about a 15% reduction in wheat production in Oklahoma for farmers.

Wheat typical to this region is used in baking yeasts and all-purpose flour to make bread.

“With the high humidity, even if it’s dry enough to get in the field, the wheat is not drying out so that we can harvest it,” he said. The quality of the wheat crop in some areas is so poor, some farmers have basically said they are waiting for the fields to dry out just so they can take a match to their crop.

The USDA raised its price forecast for corn by 50 cents per bushel to \$3.80 and raised the soybean price by 15 cents per bushel to \$8.25, according to a [Meatingplace](#) article. Smithfield Foods Inc., a U.S. global packaged foods and meat company, imported corn from Brazil because they expect a shortage of corn in the U.S., according to a [Rueters](#) report. Livestock producers are going to feel the increased costs more directly than consumers, Anderson said.

“If we get poor quality wheat — in other words we get sprouting — then that could limit the price increase in corn because they could substitute wheat for corn and we’re going to need to get rid of that feed wheat,” Anderson said in regards to feeding cattle wheat instead of corn.

Stormy weather and mass flooding have made this year difficult for farmers and ranchers. Some crops will not be planted because of the weather. Consumers may see a slight increase in food prices as a result.

**Source: Best Food Facts, 6/17/2019**

## **Help Livestock Thrive in Summer Weather**

Summer is here. We’ve already experienced a little bit of heat and humidity, just a taste of what’s to come. People aren’t the only ones who suffer when the temperatures rise. Farm animals feel it, too. You can recognize when livestock may be in danger from the heat and what you can do to increase their comfort.

Livestock become uncomfortable when the heat index reaches about 90 degrees. The heat index is a combination of air temperature and humidity and is used to describe how it feels outside.

The University of Kentucky Agricultural Weather Center regularly monitors heat indices across the state and provides an index of its own – the Livestock Heat Stress Index – to help producers know when heat stress could create a problem for their animals. The county-by-county index indicates three levels of heat stress: no stress, danger stress and emergency stress.

Periods of heat stress call for livestock producers to be vigilant in making sure their animals are adequately prepared. One of the most important things you can do is provide cool, clean drinking water. Providing an adequate source of drinking water helps keep animals’ internal body temperatures within normal limits. You should shade above-ground water lines so they do not act as solar water heaters and make the water too hot to drink.

It is also important for animals to have shade and for buildings to be as open as much as possible for adequate ventilation. Sprinkler systems that periodically spray a cool mist on the animals can also be beneficial.

It is best to avoid working your animals during periods of heat stress. You should also avoid transporting livestock during those times. When you must transport livestock, haul fewer animals per load. Plan trips so you can load animals immediately before leaving and quickly unload upon arrival to help minimize the risk.

To keep up-to-date with the livestock heat stress index, access the Agricultural Weather Center's website <http://www.agwx.ca.uky.edu> or go to the Jefferson Cooperative Extension Service's website, [jefferson.ca.uky.edu](http://jefferson.ca.uky.edu), and click on the weather link.

Educational programs of the Cooperative Extension Service 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 expressions, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability.

Sources: Tom Priddy and Matthew Dixon, UK agricultural meteorologists



## Simple Strategies to Control Mosquitoes

Mosquitos can ruin outdoor activities in the warmer months. It may seem like a never-ending battle when you're fighting to control the pesky insects. With mosquito-borne diseases becoming more prevalent, it's even more important to know how to take control of these pests around your home. Learning to do a few simple things could help protect you from more than the itchiness of a mosquito bite.

All mosquitos need standing water to develop through their larval stages, and that doesn't necessarily mean a lake or pond. It also includes bird baths, kiddie pools and even discarded soda pop cans. The key to controlling them around your home is to stop them from breeding in the first place.

Some things you can do include:

- Drain and remove trash, bottles and any debris that holds water.
- Recycle any unused containers that could collect water, especially old tires.
- Change water weekly in bird baths, wading pools, watering troughs and animal bowls.
- Fill in holes, depressions and puddles in your yard.
- Make sure your culverts and ditches are draining properly.
- Check and clean out clogged gutters to ensure drainage.
- Keep ornamental ponds stocked with fish.
- Fix leaky hoses and faucets.
- Drain water from flowerpots and garden containers.
- Turn over wheelbarrows, buckets and other items that collect water.
- Adjust tarps covering woodpiles, boats and grills to remove standing water.
- Encourage natural enemies of mosquitoes, such as warblers, swallows, martins and other insect-feeding birds.

Start these practices early to gain control!

Source: Michael Potter, UK entomologist

## Horse Owners Need to Think about Hay Supplies Now!



A black stallion munches on hay. Photo by aramisandco, Getty Images

June 27, 2019 | By: Aimee Nielson

LEXINGTON, Ky., — Wild weather in the Midwest has left livestock producers on the hunt for hay very early in the year. As a result, horse owners may not have as easy a time finding it when they need it later this year.

“With the weather conditions across the Midwest and western U.S., the hay crop may be less than what is normal,” said Bob Coleman, University of Kentucky [College of Agriculture, Food and Environment](#) equine extension specialist. “Not only horse owners but cattle producers, as well, are going to need forage for their animals, and reduced harvests can put those looking for hay in a tighter market than they are used to. Locally, we’ve had a lot of rain too, and that complicates things with our own hay harvest.”

Coleman said horse owners need to start planning for the feeding period now. Horses need good-quality hay to thrive in times when pasture forage is not plentiful or just not available.

“Reach out to hay suppliers you’ve used in the past,” he said. “Make sure you’re on their list and they have the hay you are going to need.”

A little math now, will go a long way. Owners should estimate the number of days they’ll need to feed hay and pad that number a bit. Horse owners can use a value of 2% of their horse’s body weight in hay per day for estimation purposes. Coleman said a little waste is inevitable, but owners should work hard to minimize it.

“Plan for 15% waste,” he said. “If you’re feeding hay on the ground, you could be losing up to 50% and that’ll really hurt your bottom line. Hay is so vitally important, you really don’t want to waste it. You’ll likely recoup the price of a hay feeder after the first year. No feeder is perfect, but having one will make a huge difference.”

Another factor to consider is where owners will store hay until they need it. Before storing hay, it’s important to have it tested for nutrient content to help with decisions about any necessary supplements.

“Figure out your hay budget and don’t forget to leave room in there for any supplement concentrates you may need,” Coleman said.”

With enough planning, horse owners will help their animals thrive and reduce their own stress in the process.

**Contact:**

Bob Coleman, 859-257-9451

## Lead Testing

Vegetable gardening will continue to grow not only as a hobby, but to sustain families everywhere. If you live in an older area of town and, even if you don’t, it would be a good idea to have you soil tested for lead before starting your garden.

Jefferson County Soil & Water Conservation, through a grant they established, is pleased to be able to offer you a free lead testing voucher. The regular price of this testing is \$22.00, so that is quite a savings.

This test also gives you a routine soil test along with the lead testing. The results will be very specific and will let you know what precautions to take if lead is found.

We need 2 cups of dry soil, taken from your vegetable garden area. Go down in several places, scoop up some 4-6 inch deep soil from each place, combine, air dry and bring to our office.

Please call the Jefferson County Soil & Water Conservation office for your free voucher: 502-499-1900.

# 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)

**Below are some Agricultural links you might find useful:**

**Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality:**

**<http://www.uky.edu/bae/sites/www.uky.edu/bae/files/Kentucky%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](#)**

**[NEW KY Master Naturalists Program \(for information; contact Wayne Long pwl@uky.edu or Carmen Agouridis carmen.agouridis@uky.edu\)](#)**



Wayne Long  
Extension Agent for ANR Education/County Coordinator  
Jefferson County Cooperative Extension Service  
200 Juneau Dr, Ste. 400 Louisville, KY 40243  
Office: 502-569-2344  
Cell: 859-317-1099  
Fax: 502-569-1680

