

Ag & Natural Resources Of Cows and Plows

 Martin-Gatton
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FRANKLIN COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



Managing the Details – Getting the Little Things Right

Kevin Laurent, Extension Specialist, Department of Animal and Food Sciences, University of Kentucky

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Back in the 1980’s one of the stockyards in Baton Rouge where we sold our hogs had a statement on their check stubs that read “A man with a paid off cow herd is never really broke.” That simple statement always intrigued me. Given the current market, it seems like a huge understatement, but I think the wisdom of that simple statement can be applied no matter what stage of the cattle cycle we are in. These historical prices provide an incredible opportunity to pay down debt, improve infrastructure or maybe even expand. Regardless of how we choose to use this added revenue we need to be cautious about becoming complacent in our day-to-day management. Good managers pay attention to detail, and an excellent example can be found in data gathered from the Advanced Post Weaning Value-Added Program (PVAP).

The Advanced PVAP program targets producers who have routinely weaned and preconditioned their calves prior to marketing with the objective of not only evaluating the economics of preconditioning but also identifying the best management practices of these experienced producers. The chart provided is a summary of 52 closeouts from 42 producers that have participated in the Advanced PVAP program to date. As you can see the 1645 calves in this summary were fed an average of 79 days postweaning, gained an additional 182 pounds, sold for \$7.91 per cwt. over the state average, and netted \$221.10 per head over selling at weaning. This type of on farm data is invaluable not only for producers but also aids extension educators for more effective program planning and recommendations.

Continued on pg. 2

Continued from pg. 1

Summary Data - Advanced Post Weaning Value Added Program (PVAP) July 2023 - June 2025									
Closeout Summary									
No. Close-outs	Total Head	Avg Head/ Close-out	Wean Wt (lbs)	Wean Value (\$/cwt)	Sale Wt (lbs)	Sale Value (\$/cwt)	Gain (lbs)	Days on Feed	Avg Daily Gain (lbs)
52	1,645	32	524	262.67	706	252.01	182	79	2.33
Feed & Cost Breakdown									
Feed (lbs)	Protein (%)	Feed Cost (\$/ton)	Feed Cost (\$/head)	Forage (lbs)	Forage Cost (\$/head)	Mineral Cost (\$/head)	Total Feed Cost (\$/head)	Health Cost (\$/head)	Interest Cost (\$/head, 6%)
11.1	14.4	253	111.62	8	27.39	4.33	143.34	14.85	17.06
Financial Summary									
Total Cost (\$/head)	Total Cost (\$/cwt)	Price vs State Avg (\$/cwt)	Net Added Value (\$/head)						
175.25	0.96	\$7.91	\$221.10						

To gain even more insight into actual management practices, a survey of the PVAP participants was conducted. Of the 42 producers represented in this database, 41 responded to the survey. Some of the interesting highlights of this survey are as follows:

- * 61% used fence line weaning
- * 73% introduced concentrate feed prior to weaning either by creep feeding or limited hand feeding
- * 78% castrated calves prior to 3 months of age
- * 71% implanted their steers
- * 78% sold their calves in some type of special preconditioned sale
- * 53% fed an ionophore such as Rumensin or Bovatec in either the mineral or feed
- * 49% plan to review their management practices based on closeout results

A deeper dive into the database yielded more information on two of the practices highlighted. The first of these showed that how producers marketed their calves affected price received relative to the state average price. Calves selling in special preconditioned sales averaged \$9.46 per cwt over the state average. Calves selling in non-preconditioned sales and/or private treaty averaged \$3.25 per cwt over the state average. A difference of \$6.21 per cwt.

Another interesting find was the effect that time of castration had on steer average daily gain during the postweaning period. Steers castrated at or near weaning had average daily gains of only .08 pounds more than their heifer mates (2.23 vs. 2.15), whereas steers castrated prior to 3 months of age gained .39 pounds more than their heifer mates (2.49 vs. 2.10). Although not a controlled study, I think we can safely say that the early castrated calves had a weight gain advantage due to less stress at weaning. A conservative assumption of an added .30 pound per day in this example could possibly result in an extra 20-25 pounds per head which in today's market could be an additional \$70-90 per head.

An additional indicator of the level of management by the 41 producers in the survey was the morbidity and mortality rate among the 1645 calves. Sickness was reported in only 32 calves (1.95% morbidity). Of these 32 calves, 28 were on the same farm that must comingle calves into one central weaning facility from several different herds. Death loss for the 1645 calves totaled 4 head for a mortality rate of 0.24%. It should be noted that 2 of these calves were from operations that castrate at weaning. The extremely low rate of mortality and morbidity among these 52 different groups of calves further reinforces the argument that the best place for a calf to be castrated and weaned is on the farm where it was born.

Although all the practices highlighted by the survey cannot be necessarily quantified in dollars and cents given the lack of controlled comparisons in this dataset, most of these areas of management have sound economic justification. Most participants in the Advanced PVAP program are embracing these practices to ensure that the calves are ready to transition and thrive at weaning thereby minimizing production risks. But what about market risk? Maybe the next detail our PVAP producers should consider is purchasing Livestock Risk Protection (LRP), especially as we go forward in this extremely high and volatile market.

This is just one example of how managing the details can pay dividends when preconditioning and marketing our calves. I think we would all agree that paying attention to detail and getting the little things right can apply to all areas of management and position our operations for the future. Maybe we can edit that old stockyard check stub to read *"A person who manages the details and has a paid off cow herd will be ready to ride the next turn of the cattle cycle."*



**The Franklin Co.
Jr. Cattlemen's
Cookbook Fundraiser**



The Franklin Co. Jr. Cattlemen's are creating a cookbook for a fundraiser!

They are requesting all Jr. Cattlemen and Franklin Co. Cattlemen who would like to submit a recipe to email a copy to crystal.harrod@yahoo.com.

**Stay tuned for how to
purchase a Cookbook!**



2025-2026

**LOCAL COST SHARE
SIGNUPS**

Franklin Co Conservation District

July 1, 2025 to June 1st, 2026

Contact the office at 502-352-2701 for more information

All About Goats! Webinar

JOIN EXTENSION AND INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS FOR THE FALL 2025 SERIES



Goat Health and Care Sept. 22

During this session, Extension Specialist, Dr. Brady Campbell, will review proper care for goats of all ages and explain how to help keep them healthy and continue production.

Farm Business and Management Oct. 6

Extension Specialist, Eric Richer, and Extension Educator, Pressley Buurma, will help guide participants in farm management strategies and provide options for enterprise budgeting and record keeping as it relates to goat production.

Goat Processing Oct. 20

Throughout this presentation, Extension Specialist, Dr. Lyda Garcia, will explain the cuts of a carcass and how to process a goat at home.

Livestock Marketing Nov. 3

Join us as Extension Specialist, Garth Ruff, discusses the ins and outs of the goat market. He will also discuss how to market goats to fill the current wants and needs of the customers.

Hay and Grain Production Nov. 17

Throughout this session, Extension Educator, Jordan Penrose, will present tips and tricks on hay and grain production for goats as well as what type of crops would work best for your production system.

Coyote Management Dec. 1

This session is going to focus on how to manage interactions between coyotes and goats. Experts will also explain the current status of coyote research in Ohio.

Open Forum: Ask Me Anything Dec. 15

Have a burning question that was not answered during one of our past webinar sessions? Join Extension Educators and Specialists to get your questions answered!

Webinars are hosted via Zoom (7-8 p.m. EST). Register at:

go.osu.edu/allaboutgoats25



THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY

EXTENSION

Ohio State University Extension is part of The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences.

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2025 Horses & Horsemen: Farm & Facilities Expo



Tuesday, September 16th

RSVP to Bourbon County Extension Office: 859-987-1895

Schedule:

5:00: Registration and Trade Fair

6:00: Dinner

6:15: Welcome & Farm Overview

Arena footing and maintenance - Dr. Coleman, UK Equine Extension Specialist

Pasture Walk —Central KY ANR Agents

Heavy Use Areas & Farm Infrastructure— Dr. Bob Coleman

Horsemanship Demo - Mike & Chris Stokley

Location:
Mike & Chris Stokley
Big Creek Livestock
1310 Thatchers Mill Rd
Paris, KY 40361



College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service



Ag Equine Programs
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

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Agriculture and Natural Resources
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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.

Publications of the Month!

Drought conditions (and other plant stressors like frost etc) can cause certain forages to become toxic due to prussic acid and excess nitrates. Learn more by reading:

Forage-related Disorders in Cattle: Nitrate Poisoning

<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/ID/ID217/ID217.pdf>

Cyanide Poisoning in Ruminants

<http://www2.ca.uky.edu/agcomm/pubs/ID/ID220/ID220.pdf>

If you are concerned and want to do a field test (or office test) contact Keenan at 695-9035 or kbishop@uky.edu

Self-Report Drought Conditions

Producers are encouraged to report their drought conditions through the "Drought Impact Tool". This is one way that producers can report conditions on their operation so that their voices can be heard. Attached you can find instructions on how to report drought conditions and a QR Code to take you to the Drought Impact Tool. Click the following link to access the Drought Impact Tool: [USDA Drought Impact Reporting Tool](#) Click the following link to view the KY drought monitor to see your current drought status: <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Maps/MapArchive.aspx>

Jimmy Chambers
County Executive Director
Woodford County Farm Service Agency



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Woodford County Farm Service Agency
182 Beasley Road, Versailles, Kentucky, 40383
p: (859) 873-4941 ext. 2

The Franklin County Extension Office is Hiring! Facility Manager

[https://ukjobs.uky.edu/
postings/596445](https://ukjobs.uky.edu/postings/596445)





FEEDER CALF GRADING SCHOOL

Join us for an engaging feeder calf program where you will gain experience in grading and evaluating feeder calves. Learn key strategies to improve your marketing success and maximize profits.

REGISTER NOW

September 8th

6:00pm at Bluegrass Stockyards

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RSVP



Call your county
Extension Office



4561 Iron Works Pike,
Lexington, KY 40511

Please RSVP by Friday August 29th



**Cooperative
Extension Service**

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

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Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification

2025 Franklin County Cattlemen's Association KADF County Agricultural Investment Program (CAIP)

The Franklin County Cattlemen's Association will host an informational meeting for the 2025 KADF CAIP Cost Share on September 4, 2025 at the Franklin County Extension Office, located at 101 Lakeview Court, Frankfort, KY 40601.

Please contact Crystal Harrod at 502-330-5084 or by email at crystal.harrod@yahoo.com to reserve your spot!

Please RSVP no later than 4:00 pm on Monday, September 1, 2025.

Due to such short notice, no postcards will be mailed out. Please pass this along to your friends and family and let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks

Crystal Harrod

FCCA Secretary

CAIP Administrator

MONEY FOR FARM IMPROVEMENTS



KENTUCKY AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT FUND

Eligible Investment Areas:

Agricultural Diversification
AgTech & Leadership Development
Large Animal - Small Animal
Farm Infrastructure
Fencing & On-Farm Water
Forage & Grain Improvement
Innovative Ag. Systems
On-Farm Energy
Poultry & Other Fowl
Value Added & Marketing

Administered by

Franklin Co. Cattlemen's Assoc.

101 Lakeview Court

Frankfort, KY 40601

<https://www.facebook.com/FranklinCountyKYCooperativeExtension>

COUNTY AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT PROGRAM (CAIP)

Applications are available for Franklin County's CAIP to assist farmers in making important farm investments.

Application Period:

September 5 thru September 19, 2025

No applications will be accepted before September 5th or after 4:00 pm on September 19th

Application Availability:

Franklin County Extension Office

Monday – Friday (8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) or online

Applications will be available beginning September 5th

For More Information:

Contact Crystal Harrod at (502) 330-5084 or email crystal.harrod@yahoo.com

All applications are scored, based on the scoring criteria set by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board.

WOODLAND WEDNESDAYS

ON THOROBRED TRAIL

Join KSU Forestry and Natural Resources each month for a special woodland topic and to work on trail restoration efforts.

...

FALL 2025 DATES

9AM - 12PM

September 10: Fall Bird Walk - Frankfort Audubon
October 15: Invasive Plants 101
November 19: Fall Tree Walk
December 10: Woodpecker Box Build



...

Meet at the Thorobred Trail trailhead.
 Wear closed-toe shoes and weather appropriate clothing. Weather cancellations will not be rescheduled.

...

SIGN UP HERE!

by scanning the QR code or
 contact Anna Claire Rogers at
anna.rogers@ksu.edu to sign up
 or for more details.

KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY
 Cooperative Extension Program



SUPPORT KENTUCKY PRICE REPORTING



Contact brett.wolff@uky.edu for questions



Franklin County Cattlemen's Association Annual Member Meeting

October 16th, 2025

Time & location TBA

Join us for a meal & fellowship!

Not a member?
 Join at the
 meeting!



KENTUCKY MECHANICAL WEED CONTROL FIELD DAY

UK Horticulture
Research Farm

Lexington, KY

SEPT 23
8 AM - 4 PM EST

"Investing in new equipment without seeing it in action is daunting. This was a great opportunity to get up close and learn about the finer points of various tools."

-KY Farmer, Midwest Mechanical
Weed Control Field Day



MIDWEST
TRANSITION TO ORGANIC
PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM



UK Center for Crop
Diversification
Martin Gortner College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

2025 CENTRAL KENTUCKY HAY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Testing provides nutritional value of hay to assist in balancing rations, and can result in reduced feed cost, increased animal performance, and information to improve forage stands.

Free analysis to determine hay quality and livestock needs.

Call your local
Extension Office to
sign up.



**DEADLINE TO REGISTER:
September 29**

Franklin County Conservation District

BACKYARD CONSERVATION PROGRAM
Urban Cost Share Program

July 1, 2025 to June 1, 2026

Raised Garden Beds, Rain Barrels, Compost Bins,
Pollinator Gardens, Beehives and Bat Houses

- First come, first serve.
- Franklin County Residents only
- One application per household
- 50% cost share up to \$500 maximum

**Must have approval before you
begin project**



Franklin County Conservation District
103 Lakeview Court
Frankfort, KY 40601
502-352-2701

fccd103@gmail.com

RECIPE



Beefy Stuffed Peppers

1 cup uncooked,
whole wheat couscous
1 small tomato, diced
½ cup garbanzo beans
1 teaspoon dried
Italian seasoning

¼ teaspoon ground
black pepper
1 teaspoon salt
½ cup low fat
shredded mozzarella
cheese

4 large bell peppers
½ pound lean ground beef
1 tablespoon chopped green
onion
1 tablespoon minced garlic

Cook couscous according to package directions. **Preheat** oven to 350 degrees F. **Combine** cooked couscous, tomato, beans, Italian seasoning, pepper, salt and mozzarella cheese in large bowl; set aside. **Remove** the tops, seeds and membranes from peppers. **Cook** peppers in boiling water for 5 minutes; **drain** upside down on paper towels. **Cook** beef until lightly browned in skillet. **Add** minced garlic and green onions to beef and sauté until

soft. **Drain** fat. **Toss** beef mixture into the couscous mixture. **Stuff** bell peppers evenly with mixture. **Place** in a lightly greased 9 x 9 inch baking dish. **Bake** for 15-20 minutes or until peppers are tender and cheese is melted.

Yield: 4 servings

Nutritional Analysis: 280 calories, 6 g fat, 2.5 g saturated fat, 35 mg cholesterol, 790 mg sodium, 36 g carbohydrate, 7 g fiber, 6 g sugar, 21 g protein



Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers' market, or roadside stand.

BEEF BASH 2025

20 SEPTEMBER,
2025

9:00 AM - 2:30 PM ET

1051 Midway Rd
Versailles, KY 40383

ADULT REGISTRATION -
\$15.00

CHILD REGISTRATION -
\$5.00

RUNDOWN

9 AM

REGISTRATION

Don't wait! Scan the QR code to register today!



10 - 2:30 PM

YOUTH EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

Youth Educational Sessions - Join at any time! Sessions offered continuously throughout the day.

10 - 10:50 AM

ADULT EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS 1-2

Adult Educational Sessions 1-2 Options: KBC + Food Group, Dr. Renfrow, or Bale Grazing, Dr. Halich & New AFS Research Programs

11 - 11:50 AM

ADULT EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS 3-4

Adult Educational Sessions 3-4 Options: Forage, Dr. Teutsch, or Reproduction, Dr. Bridges

12 - 1:20 PM

LUNCH BREAK, TRADE SHOW, & AWARDS

Fueling the day with great food and celebrating excellence with well-deserved awards!

1:30 - 2:30 PM

ADULT EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS 5-6

Adult Educational Sessions 5-6 Options: Precision Agriculture, Dr. Vanzant, or Fescue Toxicosis, Dr. Davis

10 FREE SOIL SAMPLES


**Sponsored By:
Franklin County Conservation District**



October 2025 - January 2026


**For Franklin County or Frankfort Residents
or Farms located in Franklin County.**

It's time to renew your BQCA certification

 Cooperative
Extension Service

University of Kentucky and Kentucky Beef Network are offering FREE BQCA
Certifications in September!

September 23, 2025
5:30 pm

 KSU Harold R. Benson
Research Farm

We'll start in the classroom and then
finish at the farm's cattle handling facility.

RSVP by September 19th -
Call - 502-695-9035

Since this is a chute-side event,
attendance will be capped at 20.

Unable to join us?

Renew Online!

kybeefnetwork.com



Kentucky Beef Network Welcomes Two New Regional Facilitators

LEXINGTON, KY (Aug. 20, 2025) — The Kentucky Beef Network (KBN) is pleased to announce the addition of two new facilitators to its team. Cody Burke and Samantha Stamm will serve cattle producers across North Central and Northeast Kentucky, bringing fresh energy and experience to helping producers gain knowledge and experience through educational programs, networking opportunities, and on-farm demonstrations.

Cody Burke will serve as the North Central Facilitator, working with cattlemen and women in Trimble, Carroll, Oldham, Jefferson, Gallatin, Boone, Kenton, Campbell, Pendleton, Harrison, Scott, Fayette, Jessamine, Woodford, Franklin, Shelby, Henry, Owen, and Grant counties.

Samantha Stamm joins KBN as the Northeast Facilitator, covering Bracken, Bourbon, Robertson, Mason, Nicholas, Fleming, Bath, Rowan, Lewis, Carter, Greenup, Elliott, Boyd, and Lawrence counties.

“We are excited to welcome Cody and Samantha to the KBN team,” said Becky Thompson, Kentucky Beef Network, Director. “Our facilitators play a critical role in delivering KBN programs at the local level, and their efforts directly support the growth and success of Kentucky cattle producers.”

KBN’s facilitator program provides regional support to cattle producers across the state, offering hands-on guidance in animal health, genetics, forages, and marketing. By placing facilitators in local communities, KBN ensures that cattlemen have access to timely, practical resources that strengthen farm profitability and the overall beef industry in Kentucky.

For more information about the Kentucky Beef Network and its programs, visit www.kybeefnetwork.com.



Cody Burke

Media Contact:
Becky Thompson

Kentucky Beef Network
bthompson@kycattle.org



Samantha Stamm

KENTUCKY SELLING FARMER TAX CREDIT

KENTUCKY SELLING FARMER TAX CREDIT ENCOURAGES CONTINUED USE OF AGRICULTURAL LAND FOR FARMING



The Kentucky Selling Farmer Tax Credit program grants tax credits to selling farmers who agree to sell agricultural land and assets to beginning farmers or actively engaged farmers who commit to keep farmland in agricultural production.

Farmers wanting to sell agricultural land and assets may be eligible for a Kentucky income tax credit up to 5% of the purchase price of qualifying agricultural assets, subject to calendar year and lifetime credit caps.

- Sales to beginning farmers may qualify for enhanced tax credit incentives.
- Sales involving immediate family members do not qualify for tax credit consideration.

Prior to completing a sale of agricultural assets, applicants should review the Kentucky Selling Farmer Tax Credit Guidelines for more detailed program information and eligibility requirements.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Visit

[newkentuckyhome.ky.gov/](http://newkentuckyhome.ky.gov/Entrepreneurship/KSFTC)

[Entrepreneurship/KSFTC](http://newkentuckyhome.ky.gov/Entrepreneurship/KSFTC)

for complete details.

For more information or other assistance for small businesses in Kentucky, please visit

[newkentuckyhome.ky.gov/](http://newkentuckyhome.ky.gov/entrepreneurship)

[entrepreneurship](http://newkentuckyhome.ky.gov/entrepreneurship),

email cedsbsd@ky.gov or call 800-626-2930.



UP TO
\$50K
IN TAX CREDITS
PER CALENDAR
YEAR



SAVE THE DATES:

September 4	CAIP Informational Meeting
September 5-19	CAIP Application Period
September 8	Feeder Calf Grading School
September 16	Equine Facility Expo
September 20	Beef Bash
September 23	Weed Control Field Day
September 23	BQCA Certification
September 27	Rabbit Show—Lakeview Park
October 16	FC Cattlemen's Annual Meeting

JOIN US ALL YEAR FOR

THIRD THURSDAY THING

September 18th: Horticulture & Urban Agriculture

October 16th: Small Ruminants

November 20th: Small, Limited-Resource, Minority
Farmers Conference

Keenan R Bishop

Keenan Bishop, County Extension Agent
for Agriculture and Natural Resources
Education

Pardon Our Mess...

Our bathroom facilities are antiquated, dating back
to the 1990s! Please be patient with us as we endure
a long needed upgrade.

The building and meeting rooms will be open as
usual but the available restrooms may be on a
different floor than where you're meeting.

*Sorry for the inconvenience caused &
Thank You for your patience!*



Cooperative Extension Service

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with prior notification.