

RUSSELL COUNTY AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES JULY 2025 NEWSLETTER

Timely Tips

Dr. Les Anderson, Beef Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

General

- Finish harvesting excess pasture as hay soon! It should be cut before it becomes too mature. Be sure and replenish your reserves. Try to put up more than you think you will need in case of a late summer drought.
- Pasture should supply adequate energy, protein and vitamins at this time. However, be prepared for drought situations. Don't overgraze pastures so that recovery time will be faster. Overgrazed pastures will recover very slowly during July/August.
- Keep pastures small for rotational grazing so that nutritive quality can be maintained. They should be small enough so cattle do not graze longer than a week. As the season progresses, you need several paddocks to give each properly stocked pasture about 4 weeks' rest.
- Maintain a clean water supply and check it routinely. Water is extremely important in hot weather.
- Control flies. Consider changing insecticides and/or methods of control this year, because insecticide resistant flies may have developed if you have used the same chemical year after year. Consider pour-on and sprays that allow you to put cattle in the corral or through the chute with little stress on them. It will make subsequent trips through the "chute" less stressful.
- Prevent/Control pinkeye
 - consider vaccinating
 - control flies
 - clip tall, mature grass
 - treat problems quickly
- Clip grazed-over pastures for weed control and so that seed heads do not irritate eyes. Pastures should be kept in a vegetative state for best quality.

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



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Beekeeper's Meeting

July 10th: 6:00 PM CST

Russell County Extension Office

Corn Silage Plot Walk

July 31st: 5:00 PM CST

Woodrum Farms

Gum Lick Rd., Liberty, KY

South-Central KY Hay Contest

July-September 2025

Jonathan Oakes
CEA for Agriculture and Natural
Resources



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Economic & Policy Update

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Department of Agricultural Economics
University of Kentucky



Crop Budgeting is Vital in our Current Farm Environment

Author(s): Jennifer Rogers

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There have been many conversations this spring surrounding crop projections and budgets. With the fear of instability in the crop markets due to foreign trade policy and the continued high costs of inputs, the profit margin for most row crop enterprises seem tight. These tight margins have emphasized the importance of projecting revenues and expenses for the crops to help budget the costs associated with production in order to ensure profitability. While crop projections and budgets are an important tool, producers don't need to stop there. A whole farm budget and cash flow is just as important, especially when making marketing decisions.

Crop projections are a great place to start in the budgeting process. Typically, crop projections are completed on a per acre basis. To create a crop projection a producer must do just that, project or estimate what they think the revenue and expenses for a particular crop will be. Typically, the revenue side of the projection is the easiest. If you know your average crop yield you can multiply that by the price you expect to receive upon harvest. Expected price can be estimated using the futures market. Remember to consider the typical basis at the time that you will be selling and any storage or drying deductions. Expense projections typically take a little more effort as you will need the current costs for inputs (seed, fertilizer, and chemicals) and determine the rates at which you will use these inputs on the crop. Added to this is the complexity that every acre may not be treated the same. After direct crop input expenses, a producer will need to estimate other costs associated with the production of the crop. These costs include, but may not be limited to, fuel, labor, machine hire, rent, repairs, insurance, utilities and equipment. Expected revenues, minus expected expenses will equal expected crop returns. It will be important to do a little sensitivity analysis on these expected returns. What if crop prices fall? What if yields are 10% less than projected? What if there is a weed problem and you have to spray an additional time? Will you still have positive returns? If projected returns are negative, how much additional yield is needed? How much does price need to increase to project a profit?

While crop projections can help producers determine a crop plan, it is important to follow through and complete a whole farm projection as well. Producers need to determine if the current plan will allow for payments of debts and family living expenses as well as all of the costs associated with production. Whole farm projections again start with revenues, but you are looking at the total dollars of income that the farm will receive. These revenues will include income from the sale of crops, but may also include government payments, patronage dividends, crop insurance claims as well as any other income that you expect to receive. Expenses will include all costs associated with the operation

of the farm. These include the crop expenses mentioned above, but will also include property taxes, whole farm insurance, and interest expenses. Other outflows of cash will include debt payments and family living costs. This whole farm projection will enable a producer to determine if there will be enough revenue from the farm to cover all costs as well as debt payments. Some producers may choose to start with the expense side of the projection to determine how much total revenue will be required. This may help in determining the crop production plan. Which crops should be grown? This projection will also help determine what expenses need to be cut and can an operation afford another loan payment.

Whole farm projections can be used as a tool throughout the production year. As crops are marketed, you can adjust the expected revenue, locking in the sale of marketed bushels, while still projecting those that are unsold. Update the costs of inputs as to what has actually been purchased or paid. By the end of the growing season, a producer should have a cash flow report, showing revenues for all crops and other income as well as all expenses that were paid out for the crop. If the net return is positive, the farm did well. This tool can be used to evaluate what went as expected and where efficiencies can be made to improve for the next year. If net returns are negative, or even projected to be negative, the producer needs to have a conversation with their lender to determine how the shortfall will be covered. If the farm had enough working capital coming into the year to cover the shortfall, that helps. However, if a farm continues to spend their working capital on production expenses it is possible that a bigger operating line or debt refinancing may be needed in the future.

During this period of tight farm incomes, it is important that producers use all of the financial tools that they have available to help measure their profits and losses. Good working relationships with your financial team are vital. If you need assistance putting together a crop projection the [crop budgets](#) produced by the University of Kentucky are a good place to start and provide a good framework to work from. Whole farm projection assistance is likely available from your lender and your farm records. If you are a Kentucky producer and are not utilizing the Farm Management Specialists of the [Kentucky Farm Business Management Program](#), please reach out and see if we can help you with all your farm financial and recordkeeping needs.

Recommended Citation Format:

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Summer Heat Safety



By Derrick Snyder - National Weather Service Paducah, KY

As summertime ramps up across the Commonwealth, so do the dangers of prolonged exposure to excessive heat. Heat is one of the deadliest forms of weather across the country. What makes it particularly dangerous is that the effects of heat are accumulative. Impacts on the body become progressively worse with similar levels of heat exposure several days in the row. For those who work outdoors during the summer, knowing the signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke can prevent serious injuries, or even death.

Heat Exhaustion	Heat Stroke
<p>ACT FAST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Move to a cooler area• Loosen clothing• Sip cool water• Seek medical help if symptoms don't improve	<p>ACT FAST</p> <p>CALL 911</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Move person to a cooler area• Loosen clothing and remove extra layers• Cool with water or ice
<p><i>Dizziness</i></p> <p><i>Thirst</i></p> <p><i>Heavy Sweating</i></p> <p><i>Nausea</i></p> <p><i>Weakness</i></p>	<p><i>Confusion</i></p> <p><i>Dizziness</i></p> <p><i>Becomes Unconscious</i></p>
<p><i>Heat exhaustion can lead to heat stroke.</i></p>	<p><i>Heat stroke can cause death or permanent disability if emergency treatment is not given.</i></p>

Stay Cool, Stay Hydrated, Stay Informed!

Know these signs:

- **Heat Exhaustion:** Becoming faint or dizzy, excessive sweating, cool/clammy skin, nausea, rapid/weak pulse, muscle cramps. Act fast and move the person experiencing heat exhaustion to a cooler area, loosen their clothing, sip cool water, and seek medical help if symptoms do not improve.
- **Heat Stroke:** Acting confused, dizziness, loss of consciousness/passing out. If someone has these symptoms, CALL 9-1-1 IMMEDIATELY, as this condition could become deadly or cause permanent disability!

Follow these tips to practice heat safety:

- Avoid heavy activity and direct sunlight.
- Do the most intensive outdoor work early in the morning or late in the evening to avoid exposure to the greatest heat and humidity levels.
- Stay hydrated, find a cool indoor place, and check on children, the elderly, and pets.
- Protect yourself outside by wearing light, loose-fitting clothes, and spend time in the shade.
- **Never** leave anyone (or pets) alone in a locked car, even in the winter, as death from heat stroke can occur in as little as 10 minutes!



Gluten Free Peach Blueberry Muffins

1 cup blueberries
1 cup peaches, small dice
3 cups gluten-free baking flour
½ cup granulated sugar
½ cup brown sugar
1 tablespoon baking powder

¼ teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon cinnamon
½ cup butter
3 eggs
1½ cups non-fat milk

Streusel Topping:
¼ cup gluten-free baking flour
½ cup brown sugar
1 teaspoon cinnamon
½ teaspoon ground nutmeg
2 tablespoons butter

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. **Grease** the wells of a muffin tin or line with paper liners and **spray** with non-stick spray. **Rinse** blueberries and **drain** well. **Remove** skin from peaches and **dice**. In a large bowl, **mix** together the gluten-free flour, granulated sugar, brown sugar, baking powder, salt and cinnamon. **Melt** butter in a microwave safe bowl. In a medium bowl, **whisk** the eggs, milk and melted butter together. **Pour** the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients and use a spoon to **mix** just until incorporated. **Fold** the blueberries and peaches into the batter gently. **Fill** muffin cups ¾ full.

For the streusel topping: In a medium bowl, **place** gluten-free flour, brown sugar, cinnamon and nutmeg. Using a pastry blender, **cut in** butter until mixture resembles fine crumbs. **Spoon** streusel topping over the batter evenly. **Bake** muffins 18-20 minutes. Do not overbake. **Remove** muffins from pan to **cool**.

Yield: 24 muffins

Nutritional Analysis: 170 calories, 5 g fat, 3 g saturated fat, 15 mg cholesterol, 95 mg sodium, 31 g carbohydrate, 0 g fiber, 14 g sugars, 2 g protein

Kentucky Peaches

SEASON: July through September.

NUTRITION FACTS: Peaches contain many nutrients but are most important for fiber and vitamins A and C. They are low in calories; one medium sized peach has about 35 calories.

SELECTION: Peaches have a fuzzy skin and come in many varieties with yellow or white flesh. There are "freestones" (flesh separates easily from pit) and "clingstones" (flesh clings to the pit). Look for fairly firm to slightly soft fruit with yellow or cream-colored skin. Avoid peaches that are green, shriveled or bruised.

STORAGE: Some peaches may need to be stored at room temperature to ripen. Fragrance

is an indication of ripeness.

Store the ripe peaches in the refrigerator and use within 5 days. Handle gently.

PREPARATION: One pound of peaches will equal 3 to 4 medium sized peaches, 2 cups sliced or 1½ cups pulp or puree. Wash, peel and cut in half to remove pit. To peel, dip in boiling water for 30 seconds. Cool quickly in cold water and remove peel with a knife. Peaches will darken when exposed to air. To avoid this, dip peaches in lemon juice or ascorbic acid mixture for fruit. Peaches are used for appetizers, garnishes, salads, desserts, baked products, jellies, preserves and are most delicious eaten fresh.

KENTUCKY PEACHES

Kentucky Proud Project

County Extension Agents for Family and Consumer Sciences

University of Kentucky, Dietetics and Human Nutrition students

June 2018

Source: www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov

Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers market, or roadside stand. <http://plateitup.ca.uky.edu>



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



Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment



STALK TALK: A CORN SILAGE PLOT WALK

JULY 31ST AT 6:00PM EST

SPEAKERS:

**SILAGE TRIAL PLOT OVERVIEW:
CAM KENIMER**

**CORN SILAGE NUTRITION:
DR. JEFF LEHMKUHLER**

**CORN SILAGE PRODUCTION
CONSIDERATIONS:
NICK ROY**

WOODRUM FARMS
GUM LICK RD LIBERTY, KY
A MEAL WILL BE PROVIDED,
PLEASE CALL TO REGISTER,
606-787-7384.

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SOUTH-CENTRAL KY

Hay Contest



The South-Central KY Area Hay Contest is offered to all individuals raising hay in Adair, Casey, Clinton, Cumberland, Green, Marion, McCreary, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Russell, Taylor, Washington, and Wayne counties. This program aims to provide producers with free hay analysis results to aid in educating producers on raising higher quality forages and meeting livestock needs.

Producers may submit multiple samples in each contest area to their county agriculture agent. Samples must be submitted no later than September 30th, 2025. Results will include crude protein, DM, TDN, RFV, ADF, and NDF. After completion of the program, an area-wide event will be held to provide an educational overview of the program and present awards to contest winners. There will be one winner selected for the entire area for each hay class. Please reach out to your county agriculture agent for further information.

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Lexington, KY 40506



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