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WEST KY NEWS

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

FARMERS' Quarterly

McCracken's Aiden Armstrong named to KMEA All-State Orchestra

First student in school history to earn the honor



Aiden has studied violin since 7th grade, served as first chair in the Paducah Symphony All-District Honor Orchestra, participated in marching band for three years, and even works HVAC during school breaks. His dedication and talent make this a proud milestone for both him and the school's growing orchestra program.

Photo / McCracken County Public Schools Facebook

McCracken certified family friendly



by Mike Maduro, WSIL

McCracken, KY (WSIL) -- McCracken County High School has been awarded the Family Friendly Schools Certification by the Pritchard Committee for Academic Excellence.

Blom highlighted McCracken County High School's creativity and enthusiasm in integrating families into the school community, enhancing the educational experience for students.

"Schools that achieve this certification show a strong commitment to actively involving families in their students' education," said Brigitte Blom, president and CEO of the Pritchard Committee for Academic Excellence.

The certification process involved a multidisciplinary team of families, teachers, and administrators using a self-assessment tool to evaluate family engagement.

This certification reflects the school's dedication to fostering effective partnerships with families and the broader community.

Paducah accepting applications for 'Tree Voucher Program'

PADUCAH – The Paducah Parks and Recreation Department is accepting applications beginning November 15 for the Tree Voucher Program. This program is for owners of single-family residential property within the Paducah city limits to receive a \$250 voucher for the purchase of shade trees at a local participating nursery.

"This initiative is designed to encourage Paducah homeowners to plant trees on their private property to enhance Paducah's tree canopy and ensure that future generations can enjoy the benefits of shade trees," said Mayor George Bray. "None of us likes to see large mature trees removed for development projects, but sometimes it is necessary. This program will allow our citizens the opportunity to help replace trees that have been removed and make a real impact on the future of Paducah's tree canopy. Trees improve air quality, provide shade that can reduce utility costs, and enhance neighborhood beauty. Paducah's Tree Voucher Program is one of the most effective and beautiful ways we can invest in our city's future."

Paducah Parks and Recreation Director Amie Clark highlighted the environmental benefits of the program. "Expanding and replenishing our urban canopy helps reduce heat, manage stormwater, and support local wildlife," said Clark. "This program makes it easier for residents to take part in that effort and see the positive impact right in their own yards and neighborhoods."

Over the past few weeks, the Parks and Recreation Department has been developing the program and working with the two local participating nurseries, James Sanders Nursery and Edwards Nursery, to ensure that there will be plenty of shade trees available for purchase. Once a voucher is used at a nursery, the nursery will invoice the city for the cost of the trees up to \$250. Planting, delivery, and maintenance are the responsibility of the property owner. Those costs are not included in the voucher program.

The Tree Voucher Program is limited to specific tree species and sizes. This program is for shade trees not ornamentals. Applications for the Tree Voucher Program are open from November 15, 2025, through January 9, 2026. Property owners can apply online at Tree Voucher Program or in person at the Parks and Recreation Office located at 2701 Park Avenue during business hours.

After a review process, vouchers will be issued in February 2026 so that trees can be purchased for the spring planting season. Informational postcards will be arriving next week at residential addresses in Paducah.

The City of Paducah has budgeted \$150,000 for this program. Vouchers will be valid through December 2026.

Eddie Jones has filed for re-election as a McCracken County Commissioner



Eddie Jones is a former Captain in the U.S. Army JAG Corps and is presently a litigation attorney located in Paducah, Kentucky. Jones has served two prior terms as a McCracken County Commissioner.

Local government is a team sport. While serving as a member of the

booked for 2026. In addition, Jones has also been an advocate for substantial improvements to Carson Park, Heath Park, Reidland Park and Lone Oak Park.

During his time as a County Commissioner, Jones has also served on the Board of Directors for PACRO which plays a pivotal role in the transformation of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) site (3500 acres) into additional economic development. Great news is on the horizon regarding the reindustrialization of the Paducah DOE site.

Jones pledges continued support toward economic development, law enforcement and continued community development.

McCracken County local government team, Jones has been an advocate for sports tourism, economic development, 911 upgrades and construction of a new airport terminal.

The new airport terminal was completed in 2023. The community 911 upgrades will be implemented during the first months of 2026. In March 2026, the Paducah Sports Park will open its nine turf fields for tournament play. The Paducah Sports Park already has over 20 tournaments

Lourdes lights up season with Christmas Market



by Jasmine Chamels, WSIL
Special to West KY News

PADUCAH, KY. (WSIL) — Get ready to sleigh your holiday shopping list, because the Lourdes Auxiliary Christmas Market is decking the halls and jingling all the way, right inside the Lourdes Hospital Main Plaza. That takes place on Saturday, December 13th, from 9am to 4pm.

This festive favorite invites families, shoppers, and anyone full of Christmas cheer to stroll through a wonderland of local vendors offering handcrafted gifts, seasonal treats, and unique goodies perfect for everyone on your nice list.

And if you're dreaming of a holiday makeover, the beloved Festival of Trees is back! Each dazzling Christmas tree, designed, decorated, and sponsored by different hospital departments. They will be on display and you can purchase a raffle ticket for a chance to win the tree that makes your heart merry and bright.

All proceeds from the event support the Lourdes Auxiliary and its Christmas Mission Fund, helping the hospital continue to spread joy and support families throughout the season.

From the sparkling décor to the gift shop overflowing with holiday spirit, this holly-jolly market promises to leave you feeling elf-ishly delighted.

So grab your friends, your family, and your Christmas spirit for this holiday tradition that's truly tree-mendous.

For more information call 270-444-2552 or visit their Facebook page .

More than 420 Students attend 4th annual HOSA regional conference at WKCTC

By Laurna Todd
KPI Writer

More than 420 students and advisors from 14 regional schools—including HOSA members from Ballard County CTC and Carlisle County High School—attended the 4th Annual HOSA Regional Conference on Friday, Nov. 14, 2025, at West Kentucky Community & Technical College (WKCTC). The event offered a full day of hands-on learning, professional networking, and career exploration for students interested in health occupations.

HOSA—Future Health Professionals is a national organization dedicated to preparing the next generation of healthcare leaders. The conference opened with



a welcome ceremony in the college's theater before students moved to the Health Sciences and Emerging Technology buildings for three breakout sessions. These sessions allowed attendees to explore specialized health science fields, interact with educators and healthcare providers,

and gain insight into a variety of medical career pathways.

Participants later gathered in the college gym for lunch and an awards ceremony recognizing students who excelled in their pre-conference competitive testing. A combined group of 32 students from

Ballard Memorial High School (BMHS) and Carlisle County High School (CCHS) attended, taking part in workshops and meeting with the State HOSA advisor and local healthcare professionals.

Ballard County CTC Health Science Instructor and HOSA advisor Mary Meinschein reported the following competitive achievements for regional students:

- Top 5 Placements
- Kaylee Gamble (CCHS) – Behavioral Health
- Team Baker/ Meinschein (BMHS) – CPR/First Aid

Lila Robinson (BMHS) – Epidemiology

Ariel Caldwell (BMHS) – Medical Assisting

Izaak Mathis (BMHS) – Medical Spelling

Grace Murphy (BMHS) – Nutrition

Ali Dorman (BMHS) – Pathophysiology

Hadley Story (BMHS) – Phlebotomy

Top 3 Overall

1st Place: Ali Dorman (BMHS)

2nd Place: Izaak Mathis (BMHS)

Christy Petitt, dean of Health Sciences

at WKCTC, credited the success of the conference to strong collaboration across campus and noted the positive feedback from both students and advisors. Bringing students to campus, she said, allows them to gain meaningful insight into the programs, people, and opportunities available at WKCTC.

Students and advisors agreed that the experience was both educational and inspiring. The event helped students better understand healthcare career pathways, build leadership skills, and gain confidence as they prepare for future competitions and careers in the medical field.

PREMIER LAND AUCTION

Tuesday, December 2nd, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

LAND LOCATION: 5465 Noble Road, Paducah, KY 42001

1,268.35 *Income Producing Acres in 12 Tracts & Combinations*

- MOORING/DREDGING
- FARMING
- WATERFOWL HUNTING
- BRICK HOUSE

AUCTION HELD AT:
THE COMMONWEALTH EVENT CENTER
5955 US-60 - Paducah, KY

Selling 1,268.35± acres in 12 tracts and combinations. This diverse offering includes fertile farmland, WRP habitat, waterfowl hunting, premium Ohio River frontage, and improved farm tracts with home and storage facilities. Whether you're an investor, farmer, developer, or outdoor enthusiast, this auction provides an unmatched opportunity to acquire quality acreage in McCracken County. Available individually or in combinations.

PROPERTY HIGHLIGHTS

- Over 9,000 feet of Ohio River frontage
- 845± acres enrolled in WRP (Tracts 1, 6, 9-12)
- 362± tillable acres of fertile farmland
- Excellent combination of cropland, WRP, river frontage, recreational land, and building sites
- Significant income potential from multiple sources

TRACT 3 HIGHLIGHTS

- 1,600± Square-Foot Brick Home 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths
- Mechanic Shop: 28' x 40'
- Equipment Shed on Concrete Slab: 50' x 100'
- Eight Metal Grain Bins: (1) 24'H x 24'D; (1) 22'H x 22'D; (3) 20'H x 18'D; (1) 19'H x 19'D; (1) 18'H x 18'D; (1) 18'H x 15'D

INCOME-PRODUCING PROPERTY

This property currently generates between \$210,000-\$300,000± in annual income potential through multiple revenue streams:

- Mooring Lease - \$60,000±
- Dredging Lease - \$31,200 +0.13 per ton
- Billboard Lease - \$4,950
- Crop Lease - 25% Crop Share
- Hunting Lease - Potential \$60,000-\$75,000 Income Waterfowl, Deer, Turkey, Small Game

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REAL ESTATE TERMS –PROCEDURE: The property will be offered in 12 individual tracts, any combination of tracts, or as a whole property. The property will be sold in the manner resulting in the highest total sale price. **BUYERS PREMIUM:** A 10% Buyer's Premium will be added to the final bid and included in the deed transaction sale price. **DOWN PAYMENT:** 15% as down payment on the day of the auction with balance in cash at closing on or before 30 days. The down payment may be in the form of cashier's check, personal check, or corporate check. **YOUR BIDDING IS NOT CONDITIONAL UPON FINANCING.** SO BE SURE YOU HAVE ARRANGED FINANCING, IF NEEDED, AND ARE CAPABLE OF PAYING CASH AT CLOSING. **ANNOUNCEMENTS MADE BY THE AUCTION COMPANY AT THE AUCTION PODIUM DURING THE TIME OF THE SALE WILL TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER ANY PREVIOUSLY PRINTED MATERIAL, OR ANY OTHER ORAL STATEMENTS MADE.** **SURVEY:** The property will be sold by a new survey. Buyer will be responsible for 50% of the cost of the new survey. Closing shall take place on or before 30 days from auction date. **FOR FULL TERMS: GO TO harrisauctions.com**

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West KY Sports

Anderson signs with Rhodes College



Marshall County High School senior Trinlee Anderson has signed with the Rhodes College softball program.
(Photo courtesy of Marshall County High School Athletics)

Staff Report

BENTON — Marshall County High School senior Trinlee Anderson has signed to play softball at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee. Thus far in her high school

career, Anderson has appeared in 89 games, starting 71 contests, with 69 hits, 10 doubles, two triples, two home runs, 55 RBIs, 28 runs scored and eight stolen bases. Her batting average is .315.

In addition to athletically, Anderson has excelled academically. Anderson attended the Governor’s Scholars Program and will graduate near the top of her class.

Beth signs with Georgia



Marshall County High School senior Trinity Beth has signed with the University of Georgia women’s golf program.
(Photo courtesy of Marshall County High School Athletics)

Staff Report

BENTON — Marshall County High School senior Trinity Beth has signed to continue her academic and athletic career at the University of Georgia. Beth is poised to join the University of Georgia women’s golf team. A five-year letter winner and team leader for the Lady

Marshals’ golf team, Beth has excelled throughout her high school career, earning numerous honors. Beth recorded 28 high school tournament wins. The wins included three Region 1 Championships, three Sub-State Championships, three Kentucky Golf Coaches Association State Championships and two KHSAA State Championships. Beth

helped lead the Lady Marshals to back-to-back Team KHSAA State Championships in 2020 and 2021. In addition, Beth was honored as Miss Kentucky Golf a record four times, the most of any student athlete in any sport ever in Kentucky. A standout student-athlete, Beth maintains a GPA of 4.25 while taking dual credit and AP courses.

Dodd signs with Cumberlands



Marshall County High School senior Savannah Dodd has signed with the University of the Cumberlands women’s soccer program.
(Photo courtesy of Marshall County High School Athletics)

Staff Report

BENTON — Marshall County High School senior Savannah Dodd has signed to continue her soccer career at The University of the Cumberlands in Williamsburg. Dodd was a part of two district and two region championships for the Lady Marshals’ soccer team during her high school

career. She was a five-year member of the soccer team, where she was selected to the All-District team in 2024 and 2025, the 2025 All-Region Second Team, the 2025 All-Region First Team and the 2025 All-State Honorable Mention Team. Dodd also made the All-State Tournament Team in her junior year while helping the Lady Marshals to an Elite 8 finish.

She recorded 29 shutouts in her career, which is tied for second all-time in Marshall County girls’ soccer program’s history. Dodd is a stellar student athlete as she has maintained above a 4.0 grade point average and been a servant leader for the Lady Marshals throughout her high school career.



The Graves County High School boys’ bowling team won the Danville Colt Classic in Danville on Saturday, Nov. 15.
(Photo courtesy of Graves County High School Bowling)



The Graves County High School girls’ bowling team won the Danville Colt Classic in Danville on Saturday, Nov. 15.
(Photo courtesy of Graves County High School Bowling)

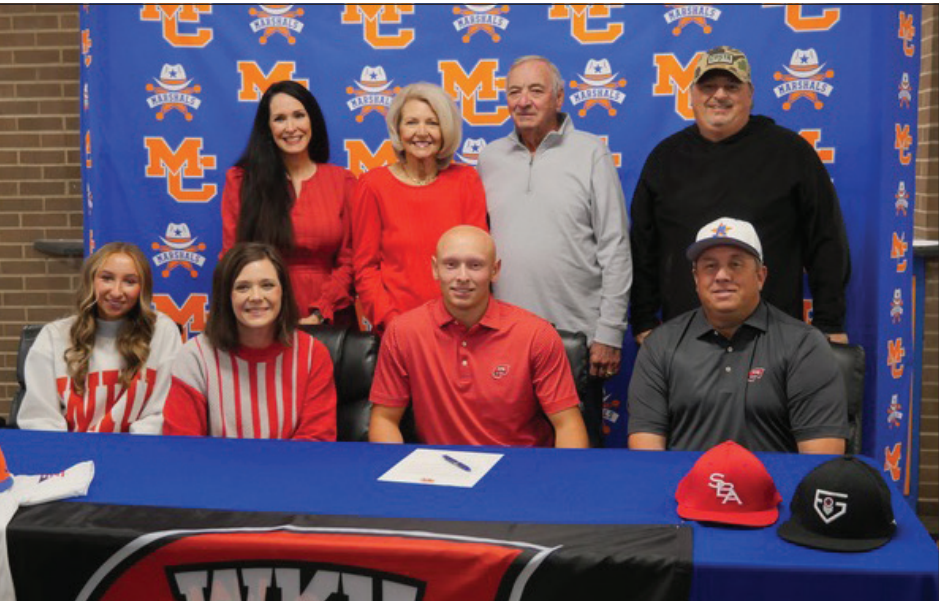
Stoops, Cats not looking ahead going into SEC finale at Vandy

By Keith Taylor
Kentucky Today

LEXINGTON, Ky. (KT) — Kentucky football coach Mark Stoops isn’t letting the Wildcats get ahead of themselves as they head into the Southeastern Conference finale at Vanderbilt on Saturday. Although Kentucky (5-5, 2-5) is one game away from bowl eligibility with two games remaining, Stoops is focused on the Commodores instead of a postseason bowl opportunity. “One game at a time,” Stoops said. “We’re worried about trying to go 1-0 here this week, so there’s no point in talking about that. We acknowledge the importance of it, but what does it matter if we don’t take care of business this week? It’s about us just handling our business here this week.” Stoops and his squad lost their first five conference games, including four in a row, before ending the skid at Auburn on Nov. 1. Since then, the Wildcats have won three straight and outscored their opponents — Auburn, Florida and Tennessee Tech — by a margin of 90-20. The biggest difference since the calendar flipped to November has been the team’s offensive production, led by redshirt freshman quarterback Cutter Boley. Under Boley’s direction, Kentucky has scored six touchdowns in its last eight possessions and has scored at least 38 points in two straight games for the first time since 2021. “I think we’ve done a nice job of it. When we get the balance, we can put pressure on teams as well,” Stoops said. “With the receivers stepping up and making big plays down the field and being able to run the ball, it could create some opportunities.” On the flip side, Kentucky’s defense has limited

the opposition to 10 points in three straight games for the first time since the 2018 campaign. The task will be more difficult against the Commodores and their standout signal caller, Diego Pavia. “(I) can’t say enough good things about that young man,” Stoops said. “He is one heck of a ballplayer, is tough as nails, and makes plays when he has to. It will be a great challenge, but once again, for us, as I’ve said every week throughout this season, it’s about us. It’s about our preparation. Continue to build on the good things and get better each and every week.” Stoops added that Pavia has a knack for breaking down the opposition defense, with both his feet and arms. “It puts great pressure on the defense, and it doesn’t matter what defense it is,” Stoops said. “It doesn’t matter who you are, any of it. He makes plays, and he does it in every game he plays in. For us, great team defense, of course. He’s going to make some plays. We just have to make ours as well.” Stoops added, “It’s impossible to totally just think you’re going to just completely contain Pavia” and added the Wildcats can’t overlook his ability to make plays as a dual-threat quarterback. “Watch every game he plays, he makes plays,” Stoops said. “We just have to make enough on top of it. Yes, we have to be very organized in our pass rush lanes and be very disciplined, win (matchups), play very hard, play all the way through the whistle, cover guys down the field.” The Commodores (8-2, 4-2) are undefeated at home this season and will be looking to go undefeated at FirstBank Stadium for the first time since 1982.

Bagby signs with WKU Baseball



Marshall County High School senior Thomas Bagby signed with the Western Kentucky University baseball program. (Photo courtesy of Marshall County High School Athletics)

Staff Report

BENTON — Marshall County High School senior Thomas Bagby will continue his baseball career at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green.

Bagby signed with Western Kentucky University during a ceremony held at Marshall County High School.

An accomplished student-athlete, Bagby has been an integral part of the Marshall County High School baseball program for the last three seasons.

Thus far in his high school baseball career, Bagby, a pitcher, has compiled a 9-5 record and a 2.43 ERA. He has logged 140 strikeouts in 119 innings pitched.

Yates signs with Lipscomb



Marshall County High School senior Kobey Yates signed to run cross country and track at Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tennessee. (Photo courtesy of Marshall County High School Athletics)

Staff Report

BENTON — Marshall County High School senior Kobey Yates has signed to run cross country and track at Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tennessee.

Kobey has been an eight-year member of the Marshall County High School track and field and cross country programs, with five of those years being at the varsity level.

Yates specializes in distance events and currently holds records in the following events - 5K Run for Cross Country, Indoor 3000 Meters, Indoor 2 Mile, Outdoor 3200 Meters,

Freshman 1600 Meters and was part of the record-shattering 4 x 1600 Relay at last season's Twilight Relays.

A leader for the Marshals, Yates has been named to the Overall All-Area Team in both cross country and track multiple times and was a member of last year's Region 1 Championship team in track and field. He was also named Area 1 Runner of the Year and has been on the Area 1 Team every year of high school in cross country and track. Yates has also been named to the All-State Team in cross country for the past three seasons.

McLeod signs with Mineral Area College



Marshall County High School senior Macy McLeod has signed to play softball at Mineral Area College in Park Hills, Missouri. (Photo courtesy of Marshall County High School Athletics)

Staff Report

BENTON — Marshall County High School senior Macy McLeod has signed to play softball at Mineral Area College in Park Hills, Missouri.

McLeod is a longtime leader for the Lady Marshals' softball team.

During her high school career, McLeod has played in 131 games, starting in 105 of the contests.

She's recorded 96 hits, including 67 doubles, six triples and one home run, while driving in 54 runs, scoring 82 times, and stealing 24 bases. McLeod has an impressive .318 batting average.

Defensively, McLeod's speed, strong arm and consistent play have made her a solid presence in the outfield.

KHSAA announces 2024-25 NFHS State Coaches of the Year

Staff Report

LEXINGTON — As part of its annual awards program, the National Federation of State High School Associations Coaches Association recognizes Coach of the Year honorees from each state.

Those named Coach of the Year at the state level then advance for consideration for Sectional Coach of the Year honors. Winners are chosen through a combination of their coaching accomplishments, particularly for the season in question, as well as their contributions outside of competition to help grow their respective sports. These awards are announced following the recognized year.

The 2024-25 NFHS Coach of the Year honorees from Kentucky follow.

Wrestling: William Green, Lafayette; Cheer: Jennifer McKenzie, McCracken County; Dance: Ashley Wroblewski, Highlands; Adapted/Allied/Unified: Michelle Knouse, Lincoln County.

The NFHS, which has been recognizing coaches through an awards program since 1982, honors coaches in the top 10 girls' sports and top 10 boys' sports by participation numbers and in two "other" sports – one for boys and one for girls – that are not included in the top 10 listings. The NFHS also recognizes a cheer coach and a dance coach as separate spirit award categories, as well as an Adapted/Allied/Unified coach. Winners of NFHS awards must be active coaches during the year for which they receive their awards.

The next award level after state Coach of the Year is Sectional Coach of the Year. The NFHS is divided into eight geographical sections: Section 1 – Northeast (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont); Section 2 – Mideast (Delaware; Kentucky; Maryland; Ohio; Pennsylvania; Virginia; Washington, D.C.; West Virginia); Section 3 – South (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee); Section 4 – Central (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Wisconsin); Section 5 – Midwest (Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota); Section 6 – Southwest (Arkansas, Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas); Section 7 – West (Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Utah); and Section 8 – Northwest (Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming).

The NFHS Coaches Association has an advisory committee composed of a chair and eight sectional representatives. The sectional committee representatives evaluate the state award recipients from the states in their respective sections and select the best candidates for the sectional award in each sport category. The NFHS Coaches Association Advisory Committee then considers the sectional candidates in each sport, ranks them according to a point system and determines a national winner for each of the 20 sport categories, the two spirit categories, the Adapted/Allied/Unified category and two "other" categories.

Glisson Joins The Musketeers



By Tim Taylor

When she first picked up golf clubs at 6-years-old, playing collegiate golf was not on her radar. Now Ballard Memorial senior Madison Glisson has not only signed to continue playing golf in college, she is going to join the Big East Conference to compete with the Musketeers of Xavier University. "It means a lot to officially be a part of their team," said Glisson on joining the 6-consecutive Big East Champion Musketeer women's golf team. Glisson's resume includes 3 All A State titles and a runner up finish, a trio of Kentucky All-State Golf Team selections, 4 All A 1st Region titles, a 1st Region Tournament win and 1st Region Player of the Year award. She also claimed an AJGA Tournament win in the national touring event this year that made a stop at her home course in Paducah at the Rolling

Hills Country Club. In that event, she competed against international players and other college signees. Glisson had to go into a playoff before capturing the win. The exposure from competing nationally grabbed the attention of several colleges, but it was Xavier that won Glisson over. "The other players on Xavier's team wanted me to come join them and I felt wanted from the support I felt there," said Glisson. She added, "They have a lot of talent there, but I think I can be on the starting five if I keep practicing hard." The hours and years of practice have paid off for the Lady Bomber senior. Xavier may only be the first step to bigger aspirations for Glisson. "I think I will try to play professionally, you never know if you do not try. But if things do not work out, my education will take me far." The future is bright for Glisson, whether it is on the golf course or in the work force.

Cats fall to 0-2 against ranked teams following 83-66 loss to Michigan State

By Keith taylor
Kentucky Today

For the second time in a week, Kentucky lost to a ranked team, leaving the Wildcats winless against teams ranked in the Top 25 this season.

Seven days after a 96-88 setback to instate rival Louisville, the Wildcats were overwhelmed in an 83-66 decision to Michigan State in the State Farm Champions Classic at Madison Square Garden on Tuesday.

Michigan State's Kur Teng (2) and Carson Cooper defeend Kentucky's Brandon Garrison (10) during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2025, in New York. (AP Photo/Frank Franklin II)

Frank Franklin II

It marked the second

straight season Kentucky (3-2) has played in the iconic arena and the team's third loss in five games to the Spartans in the Champions Classic.

Kentucky dropped an 85-64 loss to Ohio State in the CBS Sports Classic in Madison Square Garden last season.

Kentucky was without point guard Jaland Lowe (shoulder) for a second straight game and Denzel Aberdeen started in Lowe's absence. Aberdeen finished with 10 points after scoring 26 in the loss at Louisville a week ago.

"It's a work in progress. I got to do a better job," UK coach Mark Pope said in his postgame press conference. "My messaging is not resonating with the guys right now, and that is my responsibility. We're

not playing like our teams play, and that's my communication issue, so it's a place we can all work on."

Michigan State (4-0) had hit just 13 3-pointers in wins over Colgate, Arkansas and San Jose State to open the season, but fell two shy of that total against the Wildcats. The Spartans connected on 11 3-pointers on 22 attempts in their highest scoring output of the season.

Michigan State head coach Tom Izzo calls out to his team during the first half of an NCAA college basketball game against Kentucky Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2025, in New York. (AP Photo/Frank Franklin II)

Frank Franklin II

Jaxon Kohler, Trey Fort and Kur Teng combined for eight treys, with Fort and Teng connecting on

three shots each from long range in the double-digit victory. Michigan State held a dominating 42-28 edge in rebounding.

The Spartans built a commanding 17-point lead at the half as the Wildcats struggled to do anything well. Kentucky was leading 17-14 before Michigan State went on a 19-2 run for a 33-19 lead.

In the second half, Kentucky pulled within 10 twice at 58-48 and 60-50 but could get no closer. The Wildcats were down 67-55 when the Spartans went on an 8-0 run to ice the win. Their biggest lead was 24 points at 80-56.

When asked about the impact of injuries having on the Wildcats, Pope wasn't buying it.

"If you build an organization the right way, then your identity is not about an in-

dividual person. Your identity is about a collective group," he said. "So it shouldn't matter if we had built a great organization and a great culture, which I've clearly failed to do up until today.

"But we won't fail this season. We just have failed up until today. We will build an organization where we won't be able to be disrupted every time someone steps in and steps out because we'll have a team identity, not an individual identity. Until we get there, we're going to really struggle. That's my job. That's why [AD] Mitch [Barnhart] brought me here. I'm doing it poorly. I won't be doing it poorly for much longer."

Otega Owhe led four players in double figures with 12 points, while Aberdeen, Collin Chandler and

Mohoumed Dioubate finished with 10 points each. Freshman Malachi Moreno added nine points and Jasper Johnson finished with eight for the Wildcats, which got 22 points from their bench.

The Wildcats fell to 0-7 under Pope when scoring 70 points or less.

2026 Champions Classic in Chicago

The 2026 Champions Classic will return to the United Center in Chicago on Nov. 10, 2026, it was announced Tuesday afternoon.

Kentucky will play Kansas and Michigan State meets Duke. UK will play Duke in the 2027 Champions Classic and Michigan State in 2028.

Gametracker: Loyola (Md.) at Kentucky, 7 p.m., Friday. TV/Radio: SEC Network Plus, UK Radio Network.

American Legion Post 3 brings festive fun for families and veterans

By Laurna Todd
KPI Writer

The Christmas lights will be shining bright at the Ballard County Fairgrounds as the American Legion Post 3 prepares a festive lineup of holiday events for the community. On December 5, jolly old Santa will be waiting in his big

chair for children to arrive at the fairgrounds. The evening will begin with a lighting ceremony presented by the Ballard County Fair Board at 5 p.m.

Parents and grandparents will have plenty of photo opportunities while children visit with Santa. The American Legion Aux-

iliary Unit 3 will serve homemade cookies and hot chocolate, and children will be able to make a Christmas craft to take home. A letter-writing station will also be available so kids can send messages of encouragement to military members who will be away from their families during the holidays.

Post 3 will continue the season of giving on December 13 with a Christmas Breakfast for Veterans and Their Families. Veterans are invited to bring their families and enjoy a home-cooked meal prepared by Auxiliary Unit 3, featuring requested favorites such as S.O.S. and "brains-n-eggs." The buffet

will begin at 9 a.m., followed by a 10 a.m. business meeting. New memberships, renewals, and transfers will be accepted.

Leaders at the American Legion emphasize that supporting veterans—whether from Ballard County or beyond—is at the heart of their mission. Through community

events, shared meals, outreach efforts, and year-round fellowship, Post 3 strives to offer a place where veterans feel valued, supported, and connected.

Post 3 is located at the Ballard County Fairgrounds, 152 Fairground Drive, LaCenter, KY.



Feast Your Eyes on these Thanksgiving Deals



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Two Ballard administrators among 32 inducted into the 2026 Kentucky Women in Education Leadership Cohort

Staff Report

(Frankfort, Ky) The Kentucky Association of School Administrators (KASA) recently announced the induction of 32 exceptional school leaders representing 22 districts into the 2026 cohort of the Kentucky Women in Education Leadership (KWEL).

Ballard County Director of Special Education and Preschool Coordinator Terri Gentry and Ballard County Elementary School Assistant Principal Whitney Nichols were selected as part of the cohort.

“To be in KWEL is

to lead in community. As a special education director, it means growing alongside visionary leaders who inspire me to raise expectations, challenge barriers, and create better outcomes for all students,” Gentry said. “It is a powerful reminder that women in leadership are not only needed – they are transformative.”

Nichols said, “Being accepted into this program is an honor I don’t take lightly – I’m thankful for the opportunity to grow for the sake of my school community and to connect with dedicated

leaders across the state who share the same passion for supporting our schools.”

Now in its ninth year, this prestigious network includes more than 250 accomplished women leaders across the Commonwealth — visionary educators who exemplify innovation, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to student success.

Ballard County Middle School Principal Amber Parker was part of the third KWEL cohort. “Being a KWEL member has been one

of the most rewarding and transformative parts of my journey as a school administrator,” she said. “This organization has given me a powerful network of like-minded women from across the state of Kentucky – women who are courageous, passionate, and committed to leading schools with integrity and heart.

“One of the greatest gifts KWEL gives is mentorship. I was assigned an incredible mentor who helped me grow not only as a leader, but also as a mother and a friend. Her willingness to invest in me – through honest guidance, shared experiences, and unwavering support – made a lasting impact on both my personal and professional lives. Her influence inspired me to give that same gift to others, and I am humbled to now serve as a mentor to three new building-level administrators. KWEL has strengthened my confidence, expanded my leadership toolkit, and grounded me in a community of women who lift one another up.

It has shaped the way I lead, the way I support others, and the way I see myself. For that, I am incredibly grateful.”

The KWEL initiative cultivates a strong community of female education leaders by promoting knowledge, confidence, and equity through personal growth, mentorship, and career development. Designed to empower and elevate women across all levels of educational leadership, KWEL provides a powerful platform for connection, learning, and collective advancement.

“These women are not only leading their schools and districts with excellence — they are shaping the future of education in Kentucky,” said Dr. Rhonda Caldwell, KASA Chief Executive Officer.

“KWEL provides a space where leadership, courage, and collaboration intersect, helping women recognize their influence and embrace their full potential as changemakers.”

Through KWEL, members gain access to mentorship from

executive-level leaders, dynamic professional learning experiences, and a statewide network of peers who share a commitment to leadership excellence. These opportunities are designed to prepare participants for greater impact within their schools, districts, and communities.

Dr. Kathy Fields, KASA Director of Leadership Development, added, “This cohort reflects the strength and promise of women who lead with both heart and vision. Their collective impact will be felt far beyond their classrooms and districts — it will shape the educational landscape for years to come.

The 2026 KWEL cohort will be formally inducted during the KWEL Leadership Forum, scheduled for Jan. 28-29, 2026, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Louisville. The two-day event will bring together current and aspiring female leaders from across Kentucky for meaningful dialogue, inspiration, and professional growth.

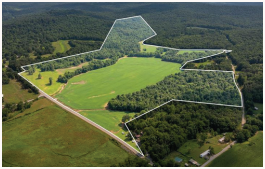


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- 25 ACRES MATURE WOODS WITH MARKETABLE TIMBER
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SCAN FOR ALL AVAILABLE LISTINGS

UKREC and Master Grazer host Winter Feeding Field Day on Dec. 13 in Princeton

AG UPDATE

for Ag and Natural Resources



Tom Miller,
Ballard County Ext. Agent

The UK Master Grazer Education Program is hosting a Winter Feeding Field Day on Dec. 13, 2025, from 10 to 12 CST, at the UK Research and Education Center in Princeton.

According to Extension forage specialist Chris Teutsch, producers and agents who attend the field day will learn about stockpiling cool-season forages for winter grazing, hay sampling and testing, and hay feeding strategies that reduce waste and improve nutrient distribution.

“It’s an excellent opportunity for producers to learn, ask questions, and connect with others who share the same goals for simplifying winter nutrition,” Teutsch said.

Lunch will be provided thanks to the field day sponsors: Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund, UK Forages Extension, Kentucky Forage and Grassland Council and the Kentucky Beef Network.

The event is free to attend, but registration is requested to help organizers prepare for lunch. Register at <https://2025winterworkshop.eventbrite.com/>.

Participants should arrive at 300 Extension Farm Road, Princeton, Kentucky, and follow the signage to the field day location.

For additional information, contact Katy Trimble at katy.trimble@uky.edu or 270-625-5366.

Winter Cattle Feeding: Ensuring Health and Productivity in Cold Weather

Staff Report

Winter presents significant challenges for cattle producers, making proper feeding strategies essential for maintaining herd health, body condition, and productivity. As temperatures drop, cattle require additional energy to stay warm, meaning their nutritional needs increase substantially. A well-planned winter feeding program starts with high-quality forage. Testing hay for protein and energy content helps producers supplement accurately and cost-effectively.

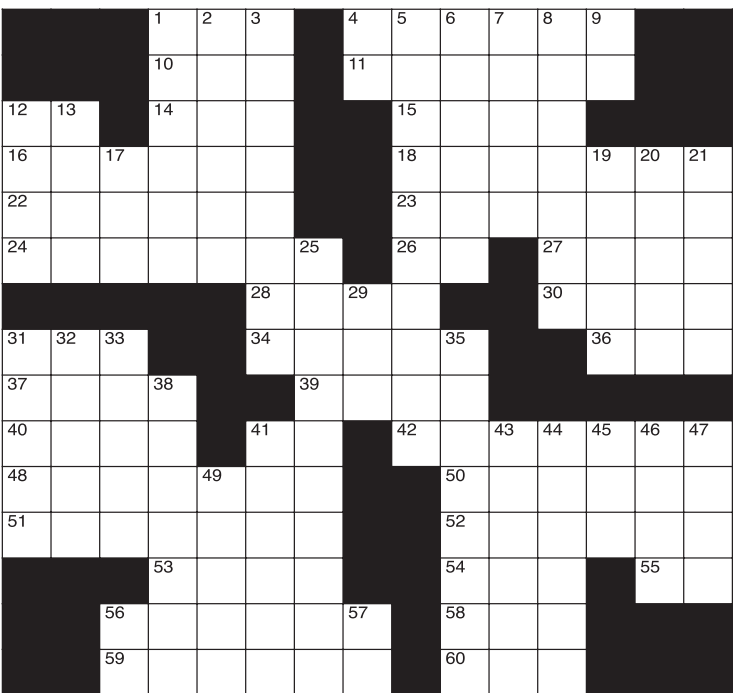
Energy-rich feeds such as grains or by-products may be necessary when forage quality is low or weather conditions become extreme. Providing adequate protein is equally important, as it supports

rumen function and allows cattle to make efficient use of available forage. Mineral supplementation should not be overlooked; balanced minerals help maintain immune function and reduce health issues during stressful winter months.

Access to clean, unfrozen water is also vital. Cattle consume less feed if water intake declines, leading to weight loss and reduced performance. Using heated waterers or regularly breaking ice ensures consistent access.

Finally, body condition scoring throughout the season helps producers adjust rations before animals lose excessive weight. With thoughtful management, winter cattle feeding supports strong herd health, optimal weight maintenance, and successful calving in the spring.

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

1. Popular broadcast network

4. Train line

10. Go quickly

11. Straightforward

12. Canadian province

14. Swiss river

15. It can be straight or curved

16. Edit

18. Utter repeatedly

22. Gotten up

23. Sea vessel

24. Agents of one’s demise

26. Not out

27. Something to scratch

28. A round water pot

30. Slang for cylindrical green fruit

31. Promotions

34. Masses of matter
36. Soviet Socialist Republic

37. Nightstand item

39. The content of cognition

40. Arab ruler

41. Northern U.S. state

42. Chewed in small bites

48. Hawaiian island

50. More thin

51. Of one

52. Rigid bracelet or anklet

53. Barbary sheep

54. Not even

55. Atomic #106

56. Haggle

58. Boxing’s GOAT

59. Division of a group into opposing factions

60. Vietnamese offensive

Puzzle Solutions on B9

CLUES DOWN

1. Horse-drawn carriage

2. Prejudices

3. Peacefully

4. University athletic official

5. Soldiers

6. Large mollusk

7. Take out again

8. Sour or bitter in taste

9. Songwriter Tunstall

12. Husk of wheat

13. Flexible covering in some birds

17. Energy

19. Night monkey genus

20. Small nails

21. Colorless volatile liquid

25. In a way, changes integrity
29. Mark Wahlberg's stuffed animal

31. Remember it

32. “Good Will Hunting” lead man

33. Pleasant facial expression

35. Sea vessel

38. Lacking poetic beauty

41. Tall, swift and slender dog

43. Sports personality Michelle

44. Robber

45. Liquefied natural gas

46. Snakelike fish

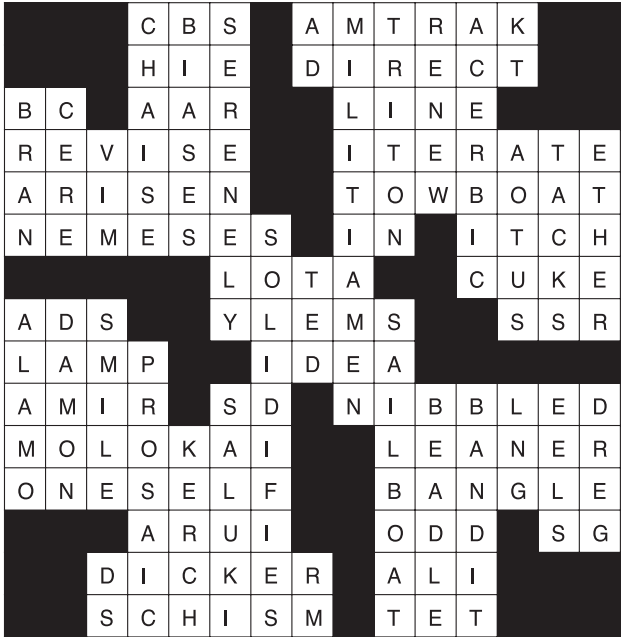
47. Sediment at bottom of a liquid

49. Crimean seaport

56. Bad grades

57. Popular S. Korean rapper

PUZZLE SOLUTION



Word Search

SENIOR SAFETY WORD SEARCH

S V S E V G D M C O G N I T I V E S I R
P A C I S S F A L L P R E V E N T I O N C
S U F D R L F P A N L G C M H O H A P C S
C S L E S N H C A I C S C V A Y B P G S
Y A N B D O P O B H S E R O G P Y P T Y
M S R A A R L C I Y C C P C U N O C Y P S
Y P M E R L R I L T M P U N O R T N E I C
E E U A G Y A V I D D R A A M H E R B L
S R P N C I Y N I O O I P H O E G L O M
U S R G C S V P C N D T Y E B R R L B E
B O E G B P G E V E G Y H A I M E S P D
A N P N V I R N R F O S D R L I M V M I
R A A I T S L A O R R S L Y L I A E S O C
E L R T S B I I Y C S F N T Y Y B O A
D A E H D N B S M P R R E S A A D V F H I
L L D G L O A I F I P R T G G Y P B N R T
E A N I R N R V E P C M B I I G V R T O
A R E L I R S G G G M F T D D T P G A N
A M S S T A I R L I F T G S A I L B E
E E S T H O M E S A F E T Y H G N M C T

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

ANSWERS IN THE B SECTION

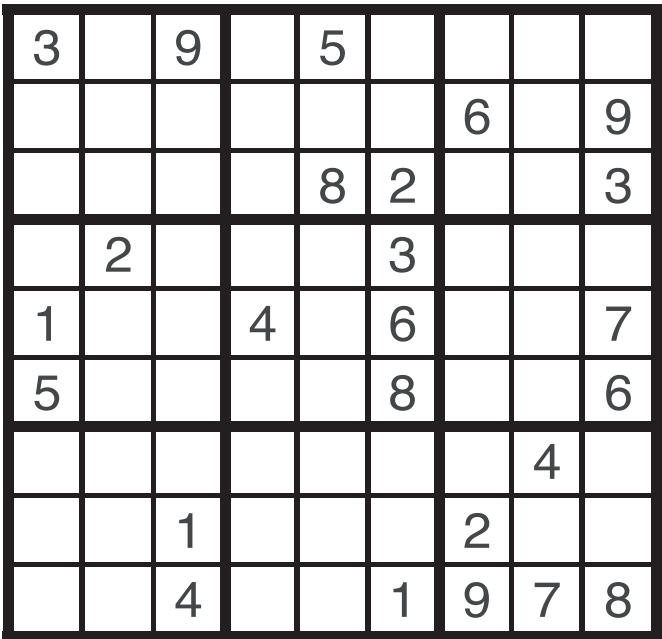
WORDS

- BALANCE
- BATHROOM
- CAREGIVERS
- COGNITIVE
- ELDER ABUSE
- EMERGENCY
- FALL PREVENTION
- FIRES
- GRAB BARS
- HEARING AIDS
- HOME SAFETY
- HYPOTHERMIA
- LIGHTING
- MEDICATION
- MOBILITY AIDS
- NON-SLIP
- PERSONAL ALARM
- PREPAREDNESS
- SAFE DRIVING
- SCAMS
- SECURITY SYSTEM
- STAIRLIFT
- VISION

Sudoku Puzzle

How it Works:

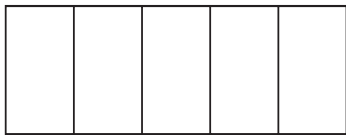
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle! Good Luck! **ANSWERS IN THE B SECTION**



Word Scramble

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to geography.

DLEAT



Answer: Pack

Guess Who?

GUESS WHO?

I am a country singer born in South Carolina on November 20, 1977. I went to the Vanderbilt voice clinic to treat a lesion on my vocal cords. I performed at the Grand Ole Opry in 2001 and have had several top ten hits.

Answer: Josh Turner

TURKEY JOKES

What key can’t open any doors?

A tur-key

What do you call a turkey who tells jokes?

A comedi-hen

Why did the pie go to the dentist?

It needed a filling

What do you call a running turkey?

Fast food

What’s the best way to fix a broken pumpkin?

Use a pumpkin patch

What did the Thanksgiving turkey say to the Christmas ham?

Nice to “meat” you

Crypto Fun



Solve the code to discover words related to senior safety. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 17 = E)

A. 19 24 13 7 7 17 23 5

Clue: Slick

B. 19 1 15 11 17 23

Clue: Place to wash

C. 26 20 23 19

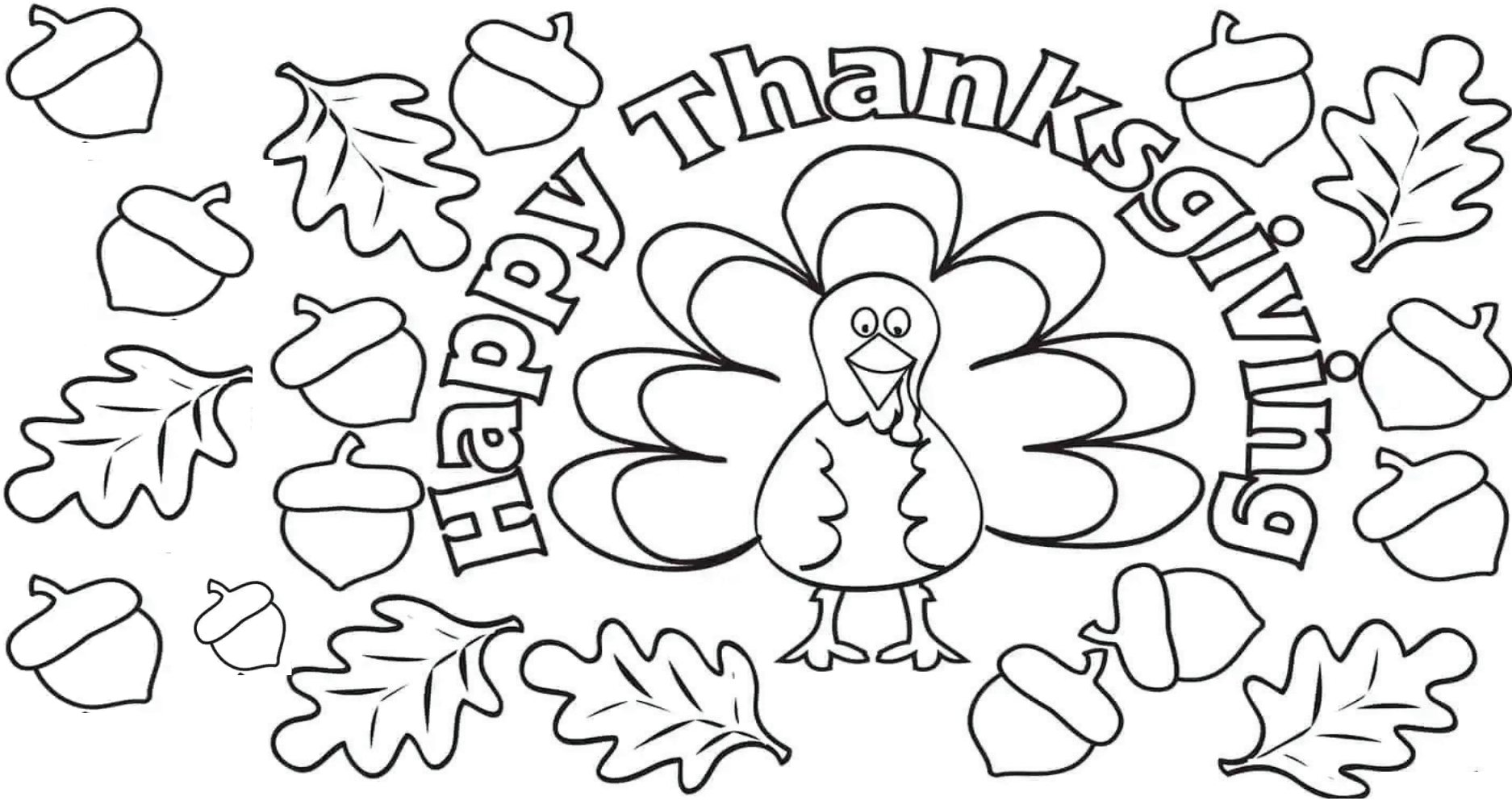
Clue: Handles

D. 17 5 17 19 13 12 1 25

Clue: Ability to see

Answers: A. slippery B. shower C. bars D. eyesight

Coloring Fun



‘Birds are the great unifier’: UK study on avian migration and survival takes flight

By Christopher Carney
University of Kentucky

LEXINGTON, Ky.— At the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, researchers and students are studying how wildlife populations respond to conservation activities. The McNeil Lab, led by Darin “DJ” McNeil, assistant professor of wildlife management in the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources (FNR), focuses on researching forest birds in Kentucky and the eastern United States.

Supported by the USDA’s Natural Resource Conservation Service Conservation Effects Assessment Project grant and the McIntire-Stennis Capacity Grant, the study titled “Assessing the Value of Forest Management Practices to Native Birds of the Central Appalachian Mountains” is identifying factors that drive variation in survival rates among different avian populations. To gather data, McNeil is using a technique called bird banding — a method to capture, mark and track movement of birds with a small, numbered tag attached to their tarsus, or leg.

For lead principal investigator and master bander McNeil, who is authorized to band wild birds by



Darin “DJ” McNeil leading a bird banding demonstration at Raven Run.
(Photo by Sabrina Hounshell)

the United States Geological Survey’s Bird Banding Lab, understanding birds’ population biology, managing their habitats and developing effective conservation strategies are key in ensuring this research takes flight.

“The goal is to better understand how we can protect these bird resources,” McNeil said. “If we aren’t proactive in keeping healthy forests and managing our wildlife populations, like birds, these resources can fade away and become highly degraded. It’s very important to consider the sustainability and management of our natural resources so our future generations can have access.”

In October, McNeil led a bird banding demonstration at Raven Run, a 734-acre

nature sanctuary outside of Lexington, giving the public the chance to see conservation research in action. One of the key aspects of McNeil’s study is comparing survival and movement rates of bird species in rural sites like Raven Run to those in more urban environments. By studying the data collected through the bird banding process, McNeil hopes his research will help people to better understand how urbanization and other potential stressors might impact different bird populations’ overall life cycles.

“Maybe a red-headed woodpecker is more sensitive to urbanization, versus a tufted titmouse or northern cardinal, which are both ubiquitous in both urban and rural areas,” McNeil said. “These are the types

of questions we are trying to answer with the data we are collecting here and in other places.”

McNeil and a group of his students, whom he affectionately refers to as “fellow bird nerds,” have banded multiple species, including the Carolina wren, Carolina chickadee, tufted titmouse and the northern cardinal — Kentucky’s state bird.

Nicole Notarianni, a student in the Forest and Natural Resource Sciences master’s program at Martin-Gatton CAFE, joined the McNeil Lab in 2023 and has been working on a habitat management project on eastern whip-poor-will habitat ecology in Pennsylvania.

For Notarianni, who plans to be a master bander in the future, working with McNeil on this study has enhanced her passion for researching birds

— academically and professionally.

“He’s an incredible mentor, and there’s a reason that his office is full of students constantly,” Notarianni said. “I’ve learned so much from DJ, like learning how to publish, coding and outreach, making me very attractive to future employers. After graduating, I plan to pursue the Forest and Natural Resource Sciences Ph.D. program at the University of Kentucky.”

Will Gibson, another graduate student studying under McNeil, is researching Venus flytraps and bobwhite quail in North Carolina. For Gibson, who’s been working in the McNeil Lab since he was an undergraduate student studying the diets of Cooper’s and sharp-shinned hawks, bird banding has prepared him to do more bird research.

In addition, Gibson hopes that more people walk away from outreach events like the one at Raven Run appreciating birds and wanting to become a “steward of the land.”

Projects like [Raven Run] give our students a chance to see how it’s done and the steps we need to go through to get prepared for our careers in this field,” Gibson said. “Just being around birds — identifying them, seeing how the banding process works — is very helpful to someone like me who wants to study birds for the

rest of their lives. Managing the land more properly and helping more bird species can make Kentucky and the world a better place for our wildlife.”

Going forward, McNeil hopes that this research can reshape people’s minds and the overall ecosystem in Kentucky. In addition, he believes that UK provides the “perfect setting” for current and future students who want to study the field of wildlife conservation.

“At some point, when you lose a certain number of birds, you’ll notice the woods becoming quieter and quieter,” said McNeil. “If we aren’t paying close enough attention to these bird populations, we will lose a lot of bird biodiversity, which is quite impressive in Kentucky. We must do the hard work of going out and monitoring bird populations. Students that want to get research experience, which is essential for getting a sustainable career in this field, can get it here at UK.”

“There are few other organisms that go across continents every single year,” Notarianni added. “Birds are the great unifier, and it’s awesome to see people loving birds.”

To learn more about the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources at Martin-Gatton CAFE, visit <https://forestry.mgcafe.uky.edu>.

OEJATC and OCTC Celebrating 10 Years of a Successful Partnership

by Bernie Hale

OWENSBORO, KY The Owensboro Electrical JATC (OEJATC) thrives through the long-standing support of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 1701, the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA)-now approaching their 75-year anniversary-and a decade of collaboration with Owensboro Community & Technical College (OCTC). Together, these partners proudly celebrate ten years of a joint effort that has strengthened the region’s workforce and expanded opportunities for apprentices pursuing careers in the electrical trade.

Since 2015, the partnership between OEJATC and OCTC has provided aspiring electricians with a unique opportunity to earn an Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree in Electrical Technology while completing their apprenticeship. This innovative program combines on-the-job training, complete with payments, benefits, and progressive wage increases, with classroom instruction and college credit through OCTC.

Over the past 10 years,

approximately 72 apprentices have graduated from the program, and 56 are currently enrolled. The partnership has not only improved the educational credentials of apprenticeship graduates but has also enhanced the skill level of the local workforce, providing a clear pathway from high school into a rewarding career in the electrical trade.

“We’re grateful for the long-standing partnership between OEJATC and Owensboro Community & Technical College,” said Katie Vincent, Director of Workforce Partnerships at OCTC’s Workforce Solutions department. “Since 2015, this collaboration has built career paths, strengthened local employers, and helped our community thrive by putting skilled, degree-qualified electricians to work.”

Jason Sharp, OEJATC Training Director, echoed the sentiment, stating, “Partnering with OCTC has been a huge step in keeping our program ‘with the times.’ It has allowed our students to further their education beyond just the electrical trade, resulting in employees who can manage and per-

form whichever is needed. It has assisted with students who have been out of school for a longer duration. It ensures all our students obtain additional education that will allow them to continue making advancements and promotions throughout their careers.”

Dr. Scott Williams, President of OCTC, added, “The enduring success of our partnership with OEJATC is a testament to the power of collaboration between education and industry. By working together to create innovative pathways that combine the best of apprenticeship training and college education, we are not only transforming lives but also building a stronger, more resilient workforce for the future. Katie and Jason have done an exemplary job of nurturing that partnership.”

As OEJATC and OCTC celebrate this milestone anniversary, both organizations remain committed to nurturing this valuable partnership and creating opportunities for the next generation of skilled electricians in the Owensboro region.

For more information about the OEJATC apprenticeship program and its partnership with

OCTC, please get in touch with Katie Vincent at 270-686-4423 or via email at katie.vincent@kctcs.edu.

Owensboro Community & Technical College is one of the sixteen community and technical colleges that make up the Kentucky Community & Technical College

System. OCTC serves the KY counties of Daviess, Hancock, Ohio and McLean. OCTC has three campuses in Daviess County and a Center and Annex in Hancock County. OCTC strives to serve the communities in the service area by providing associate degree education for transfer,

state of the art technical education for students focusing on entering the workforce, customized business and industry solutions through the Workforce Solutions division, and adult education and business and industry testing through the SkillTrain unit.

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Cane Creek Historical Community Cemetery

Early Settlers Not Forgotten

By Betty L. Johnson
bettyjohnsonky@yahoo.com

Saturday morning, November 15, 2025, was a memorable work day as we continued to maintain this unique old cemetery since 2012. Pictured is the first effort by our cemetery group to restore this very historical community cemetery with many early settlers gravesites. Stanley Hunt in 2012 with his Kubota, worked months to clear the massive weed growth hiding beautiful monuments. Whereas decades ago, there were regularly family picnics in the cemetery. Descendant Mrs. Brunson happily shared with me that in the late 40's, the families after eating would still work together cleaning the cemetery and enjoying beautiful flowers planted. I never tire of talking with descendants or reading all of the history connected to Cane Creek Cemetery.

Sheriff Lewis S. Lee, (1810-1894) came into Ballard County 1833. There

is a lot of interesting history on Sheriff Lee found in Ballard County history books located in the Ballard-Carlisle County Genealogy Historic Society in Wickliffe, KY. Also on website "Find A Grave." Sheriff Lee's unfound monument will be a memorial to his life and his service to the Cane Creek Community. Looking forward to Spring 2026, for more searching with our Ground Penetrating Radar equipment (GPR). Every effort will be made to find his believed sunken stone. Sheriff Lee's descendants think his monument is near an old tree in the cemetery front part.

Also, early settler, Mr. Frederick Mayberry, died 1851, owning three - 160 acre tracts of land on Cane Creek and charter member of second church established in Ballard County. "The Ohio Baptist" 1811 is located on Hall property about 6 miles from Blandville on Stovall Creek. Definitely one of our earliest settlers and very instrumental in building the



(1806-1884), is also one of my favorites.

There are many other names I could list that settled here early and contributed to the Cane Creek area by clearing and owning land, helping to build roads, churches, schools, and businesses. Their gravesites are sacred; as they are asleep in Jesus, waiting for God to tell Jesus to first open their graves, then caught up in the air, along with us, called to our Heavenly home according to (1Thessalonians 4:14 and 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

Now, I believe God speaks to us throughout scripture in the Bible to remember, respect, and honor these early settlers, plus all God's children buried in every cemetery. Resting in peace, until the Rapture. "Gone but not Forgotten."

Cemetery Restoration in Western Kentucky (Photo provided)

community and surrounding area. I love visiting Mr. Mayberry's beautiful old monument, still standing in the back of this historic cemetery. Plus, the beautiful monument and epitaph of Honorable J. H. "Judge" Stovall

Annual Biker Toy Run held in Paducah



By Lilly Morefield
KPI Writer

PADUCAH- The 42nd annual Biker Toy run was held on Saturday November 15. Approximately 2400 participants including 800 to 900 bikers came out and took part in the drive.

The parade of bikes and other vehicles gathered at the Paducah Square parking lot and traveled to Nobel Park where a presentation of toys was presented to Family Services Cabinet Liaison Sandra Lynn and Julie Holmes.

All participants were all invited to Beacon Dragway for a meal and other happenings. Events included a Bike Show, Quilt Raffle, Run Patches, Tattoo Con-

test, and more.

Everyone also enjoyed a meal catered by Starnes BBQ with all the trimmings and many delicious desserts make by ladies of the Cabinet.

Russell Reeves, spokesman for the event stated that the biker who traveled the farthest came from Washington State, the largest club was the Iron Horsemen who had approximately 350 to 400 members. Others traveled from Ohio Arkansas, Mississippi, New York, Indiana, Pennsylvania and more to help children in the area to have a very Merry Christmas.

All monies and toys were presented to Family Resources and will go to help children in 9 area counties.



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Faith without works – in the age of SNAP

By Emily Burton
Forward Kentucky

Somerset pastor and great-grandpa Johnny Dunbar knew he needed to take notes for the upcoming conversation with a stranger. “Good Start, like for infants,” Dunbar is heard to say, nearly to himself over the phone, probably already writing it down. “Infant formula.”

This was an important request recently of his church, Heritage Hope Church of God in Somerset, though he’d never met the woman and her crying infant on the other end of the line. “Well, let me ... I’ll see if I can get somebody to do this. We can do this,” Pastor Dunbar said. “Tell me what it is called

in case I have to go get it. Because I’m a great-grandpa, I’m not used to picking up formula, ok?” What social media creator Nikalie Monroe actually wanted by calling Dunbar’s church was nothing so expensive – just a simple yes. When a mother of a starving infant calls in desperate need, who will help

her? Which church will say yes? In the world of social media, Monroe rocketed to the top last week after her recent social experiment: calling churches with a simple request, a single can of baby formula, as she records the exchange. For the record, the crying baby was a recording and she did not accept any cans of formula if offered.

As of last weekend, she’s received 10 offers of help from religious institutions, but 33 refusals, including those from the mega churches of Joel Olsteen in Houston and Charlie Kirk in Phoenix. Some alluded to applications that could take weeks, while others referred her elsewhere, willing to help in ways that didn’t inconvenience them.

Infant formula and diapers are consistently one of the most needed items at food banks. Following the pandemic, a study published with the National Library of Medicine found that “31% of families who used infant formula indicated that they experienced various challenges in obtaining infant formula, and in response, 33% of families who used formula reported resorting to deleterious [harmful] formula-feeding practices” such as adding more water to the mix or saving leftover mixture.

Given that we’ve had about five years since the pandemic to resolve such crucial public health needs, one wonders why we are still ignoring the very real crisis of the nation’s working poor with infants. Further, if the federal government continues to refuse this responsibility by halting SNAP benefits, local charities such as neighborhood churches must step up and reaffirm their community value by providing basic supplies for young



Emily Sherman Burton

families in desperate circumstances, no matter where they attend services. The Islamic Center of Charlotte, North Carolina asked no questions of Monroe other than where she lived, how much formula she needed, and what brand, though there was little question of Monroe being a member of their muslim congregation. At First Baptist Church of Jefferson-town, a historic black church founded in 1829, the woman who answered Monroe’s call recently was also quick to find a way to help.

“We wouldn’t have it readily available, but ... it’s for your baby?” she paused. “Let me see what I can do.” TikTok’s community speculated she was already reaching for her own purse.

The vast majority of responses from larger churches – by a wide margin – showed patronizing sympathy while explaining all of the reasons their house of worship couldn’t scrounge up a single can of baby formula among their thousands of parishioners and millions of dollars in operating budgets.

Some offered referrals — other churches, overly burdened food banks, the Health Department — but very little in the way of actual action.

At the Germantown Baptist Church in

Tennessee they told her they actually had a benevolence fund that they could use to help feed her infant, “but it is just for our members.”

Throughout several calls, one gets the feeling she was wasting someone’s time, underserving of their help and pitiful for trying.

“It’s not something you all could get, and I’d just pick it up?” asked Monroe about the formula at one Kentucky Baptist church.

The church representative sighed. “No,” they said, distastefully. The call was over.

Given that churches enjoy a tax exempt status based in part on their charitable giving, one must wonder exactly who some of them deem worthy of Christian kindness to help keep them off the hook for billions of tax dollars annually. How much worse must hunger get in these communities before the nation’s mega churches step up in answer to that call?

Having listened to dozens of such calls from Monroe to various churches in the south and in Texas, it becomes more clear as to why some Americans are distancing themselves from permanent church membership. According to a Pew Research Center report, the number of agnostic, atheist, or religiously unaffiliated adults in our nation has grown to nearly 29%, up from 26% in 2007.

This dwindling of the faithful has been used as a campaign hot potato for numerous Republicans as of late. But when put into perspective by Monroe’s social experiment, it became more apparent that Americans are leaving the church in light of its shortcomings, not their own.

John 2:14-17 tells us “What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? ... In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”

If the Republican party is truly worried about preserving America’s religious heritage, they would do well to look closer to home on Sunday mornings. If community churches spend more on stage lighting than feeding the hungry on their doorsteps, then they have both lost their soul and the faith of their followers.



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Murray State to host two concerts for the holidays

Murray State University will kick off the holiday season on Tuesday, Dec. 2, with two free community events: the annual Holiday Open House at Oakhurst and the Town & Gown Holiday Concert. From 4:30–6:30 p.m., President Ron K. Patterson and First Lady Jenny Patterson will welcome visitors to Oakhurst, the University’s historic



presidential residence at 1510 Main St., for refreshments and holiday fellowship. At 7 p.m., the celebration continues in Lovett Auditorium with the Town & Gown Holiday Concert. The Town & Gown Chorale, directed by Dr. Bradley Almquist, and the Town & Gown Community Band, led by Dr. Brent Johnson, will perform a selection of traditional and contemporary holiday music. This year’s band features more than 85 members from the campus and local community. The events are part of Murray State’s Town & Gown Partnership, which connects the University with the region through collaborative, community-centered programs. For more information, contact Jen Robertson at jrobertson38@murraystate.edu or 270-809-3924.

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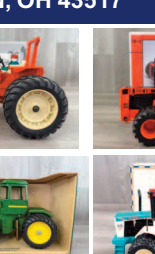


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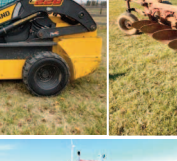
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‘Cram the Cruiser’ food drive ongoing through Dec. 5

By **TOM LATEK**
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – Gov. Andy Beshear and the Kentucky State Police (KSP) are encouraging Kentuckians to participate in the annual statewide “Cram the Cruiser” food drive to combat hunger throughout the state, which is running now through Dec. 5.

“No family should have to face hunger or worry about where their next meal will come from, especially during the holiday season,” Beshear said. “Every year, I’m proud to see the love Team Kentucky shows through its participation in this food drive, and I hope anyone who is able will help us give back to our neighbors in need.”

“Cram the Cruiser,”

hosted by all 16 KSP posts, aims to collect essential food items to brighten the holiday season for those in need. Troopers will be stationed at various grocery and retail stores across the state, ready to accept donations of non-perishable food items. These items include canned fruit and vegetables, canned meat, macaroni and cheese, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, canned soups, chili or spaghetti sauce, brownie and cake mixes, coffee, water, powdered milk and juices. Food items may also be dropped off at post locations.

“During the holidays, our mission goes beyond enforcement. We want every Kentuckian to have the chance to share a meal with their family,” stated KSP Commis-



sioner Phillip Burnett Jr. “The unique aspect of ‘Cram the Cruiser’ is that all donations stay within the post area in which they are collected. This allows our indi-

vidual posts to directly impact local community members, which is the heart of our mission.” KSP will hold signature statewide collection events across the

commonwealth during the campaign to make it easy to donate to the food drive and help feed the hungry. Click here to find dates for the collection events near each of

KSP’s 16 posts. In 2024, KSP collected more than 204,000 pounds of food, with Post 16 in Henderson collecting the most donations at 115,000 pounds.



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Health issues with cockroaches triggering asthma being studied at UK

By Tom Latek
Kentucky Today

LEXINGTON, Ky. (KT) – More than 25 million people in the U.S. live with asthma, and cockroach allergens are a key trigger in many low-income, urban settings, so a University of Ken-

tucky-led research team is working on the issue.

A UK Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment (CAFE)-led research team, with collaborators at Louisiana State Uni-

versity, has received a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Healthy Homes Technical Study award to develop a complete and durable approach to cockroach control in affordable housing.

The project, “A Complete Approach to Cockroach Management in Affordable Housing Communities,” is funded by a nearly \$1 million cooperative agreement with HUD.

The study is de-

signed to reduce allergen loads by pairing proven pest biology with resident-supported practices and procurement reforms that reward effective methods. The team will work across multiple affordable housing communities, enrolling about 50 homes for in-home trials and pairing with surveys and laboratory testing.

“Cockroaches are common in many communities, and they are not just a nuisance,” said Zachary DeVries, Ph.D., principal investigator and The Bill Gatton Foundation Early Career associate professor of entomology at UK. “Cockroach allergens can trigger asthma, especially among children. The good news is that when we effectively control cockroaches, those health risks decline. The challenge has been keeping them down over time in large, under-resourced communities. This project lets us tackle both the science and the real-world barriers so the gains last.”

The study has three objectives:

--Identify why control efforts fail. Researchers will

review pest-control request-for-proposal (RFP) language from housing authorities, test popular over-the-counter “essential oil” products against German cockroaches and measure how sanitation levels affect results to pinpoint outdated specs, ineffective products and on-site conditions that undermine control.

--Increase resident participation. The team will survey residents about practices such as prompt reporting, housekeeping routines and cooperation with building-wide treatments. It will test simple “nudges,” education and peer-comparison feedback to improve adoption.

--The team will evaluate liquid bait formulations — delivered as drinkable water sources containing a low-dose active ingredient — in both lab and home settings, comparing their performance and cost with that of standard gel baits to determine if liquid baits can match or exceed efficacy at a lower, more easily scalable price point.

The study began in April 2025 and will conclude in March 2028.



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• BALLARD •

Allen Damron - At the age of 70, Allen Damron passed away peacefully in his home, surrounded by the family he cherished.

Visitation was held on Monday, November 17, 2025, after 10:00 a.m. at Morrow Funeral Chapel in LaCenter, KY.

Funeral services were held on Monday, November 17, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. at Morrow Funeral Chapel in LaCenter, KY with Rev. Drew Gray officiating.

• CALDWELL •

Danny Odell Walker, age 73, of Kuttawa, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family, love, laughter and music.

Funeral services were held at 1:00 pm Thursday, November 20, 2025 at Lakeland Funeral Home with Lance Cordle and Jared Green officiating. Burial followed in Rolling Hills Cemetery.

Nini Bower, age 76, of Draffenville, KY formerly of Princeton, passed away Tuesday, November 18, 2025 at Murray Calloway County Hospital. Arrangements are incomplete at Morgan’s Funeral Home.

Richard Earl Eaves, age 73, of Princeton, passed away November 17, 2025, leaving behind a legacy of hard work, quiet creativity, and a deep love for music.

Funeral services were held at 11:00 am Thursday, November 20, 2025 at Morgan’s Funeral Home. Burial followed in Cedar Hill Cemetery.

Mary Harper, age 91, of Princeton, passed away Sunday, November 16, 2025 at her home.

Funeral services were held at 1:00 pm Wednesday, November 19, 2025 at Morgan’s Funeral Home. Burial followed in Sugar Creek Church Cemetery.

Donna Holmes, passed away at the age of 80, on November 12, 2025 at her home in Eddyville. There will be no services at this time. Lakeland Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Marvalyn Joy Kelly, age 79, of Eddyville, KY, formerly of Florida, passed away November 11, 2025 at Princeton Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

There will be no services held at this time.

Donald “Jay” Herron, age 66, of Princeton, passed away on Tuesday, November 11, 2025, at his home surrounded by family. A private memorial service will be held at a later date.

Michael David Wright, 33, passed away on Tuesday, November 11, 2025, in Princeton, Kentucky.

Funeral services were held at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 16, 2025 at Morgan’s Funeral Home with Pastor Troy Jent officiating.

• CALLOWAY - MURRAY •

James Edward Higgins, 81, of Hardin, KY, passed away on Thursday, November 13, 2025 surrounded by his loving family.

The funeral service honoring the life of Mr. James Edward Higgins iwere held at 1 PM on Monday, November 17, 2025 at Imes Funeral Home, 311 North 4th Street, Murray. Brett Miles will officiate and burial followed at Ferguson Springs Cemetery.

Dottie Olivia Paschall, 90, of Almo, KY, passed away on Thursday, November 13, 2025 at the Marshall County Hospital.

A private family burial was held Tuesday, November 18, 2025 at Puryear Cemetery in Puryear, TN.

Mary “Virginia” (Morgan) Hale, age 97, of Murray, Kentucky passed away on Saturday, November 15, 2025, at the Calvert City Nursing and Rehab in Calvert City, Kentucky.

A funeral service will be held at 1:00 p.m., Saturday, November 22, 2025, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services with Rev. Jim Stahler and Bro. Gary Vacca officiating. Burial will follow in the Murray Memorial Gardens. Visitation will be held from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Saturday, November 22, 2025, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Sylvia Jean Thomas, age 86, of Murray, Kentucky, formerly of Dawson Springs, Kentucky, went to be with the Lord surrounded by family on Sunday, November 16, 2025, at the Towne Square Care of Puryear in Puryear, Tennessee. A visitation will be held from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., Sunday, November 23, 2025, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Dr. Bassam H. Atieh ScD, age 74, of Murray,

Kentucky, passed away on Sunday, November 16, 2025, at the Murray-Calloway County Hospital in Murray, Kentucky.

A memorial visitation will be held from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., Saturday, November 29, 2025, at the J.H. Churchill Funeral Home & Cremation Services.

Rev. Dan Leslie, age 77, of Kirksey, Kentucky, passed away on Saturday, November 15, 2025, at the Anna Mae Owen Residential Hospice House.

A memorial service will be held at 3:00 p.m., Sunday, November 30, 2025, at the First United Methodist Church of Murray with Rev. Jeff Rudy and Rev. Rick Dye officiating. Dr. Todd Hill will oversee the musical selections. Visitation will be held from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., Sunday, November 30, 2025, at the First United Methodist Church of Murray.

Janet Marie McCurry, 80, of Sedalia, Kentucky, passed away Saturday, November 15, 2025, at the Ray & Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center in Paducah, Kentucky.

In keeping with Ms. McCurry’s wishes, her family will remember her privately with no public services being held.

Billy Earl Brandon, 83 of Murray, KY, passed away Saturday, November 15, 2025, at Spring Creek Health Care in Murray.

Funeral services for Billy were conducted at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, in the chapel of Blalock-Coleman Funeral Home, with Bro. Ricky Cunningham officiating. Following the service, he was laid to rest at the Cumberland Cemetery in Golden Pond, KY.

Wanda Omega (Fuqua) Jones, 86, of Murray, passed away Friday, November 14, 2025, at the Anna Mae Owen Residential Hospice House in Murray, KY, surrounded by the love of her family.

Funeral services were conducted Monday, November 17, 2025, at 12:00 noon, in the chapel of the Blalock-Coleman Funeral Home, with Bro. Mike White officiating. Burial followed the service in the Hicks Cemetery, Model, TN.

• CARLISLE COUNTY •

Huellen Edwards, 94, of Bardwell, Kentucky, passed away on November 18, 2025, at her residence.

Funeral services will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 22, 2025, at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Cunningham, Kentucky, with Bro. Tim Harvey officiating. Burial will follow at Zoar Cemetery in Cunningham, Kentucky.

Visitation will be held from 11:00 a.m. until the service time of 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 22, 2025, at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Cunningham, Kentucky.

• CHRISTIAN COUNTY •

Michael Owen Fritz, age 78, of Fairview, KY, passed away on Sunday, November 16, 2025, at Elkton Nursing and Rehab of natural causes. Graveside Services will be at 11:00 AM on Friday, November 21, 2025, at Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West with burial to follow.

Gregory “Greg” Joe Clark, age 68, of Pembroke, KY passed away on Sunday, November 16, 2025, at his home. Funeral Services will be at 12:00 PM Noon on Saturday, November 22, 2025, at Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home with Bro. Joe Bufford officiating and burial to follow in Rosedale Cemetery. Visitation will be at the funeral home on Saturday, November 22, 2025, from 10:00 AM until the service time at 12:00 PM Noon.

Danny Ray Shepherd, age 73, of Hopkinsville, KY, passed away on Thursday, November 13, 2025, at his home with his wife by his side of natural causes. Arrangements are incomplete at this time with Maddux-Fuqua-Hinton Funeral Home.

Mary Ann Roberts, age 87, of Hopkinsville, KY, passed away Tuesday, November 11, 2025, at Brookdale Senior Living in Clarksville, TN of natural causes. Graveside Services were at 2:00 PM on Friday, November 14, 2025, at Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West with Bro. Richard Sexton officiating and burial followed.

Kathy Jean Tucker White, 71, of Hopkinsville, Kentucky died at 10:40 a.m., Friday, November 14, 2025 at Jennie Stuart Medical Center in Hopkinsville.

Funeral services were held at 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 19, 2025 at Hughart , Beard & Giles Funeral Home with Rev. Mike Humphries officiating. Burial followed in Riverside Cemetery.

Betty Sue Duncan Workman, 90, of Cox Mill Road, died Sunday, November 9, 2025, resting peacefully at home.

Services were at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at Hughart, Beard & Giles Funeral Home, with Pastor Todd Goulet officiating. Burial followed in Riverside Cemetery.

Charles Clayborn Walton, Jr., 78, died at 9:00 a.m., Saturday, November 8, 2025 at Saint Thomas West Hospital in Nashville, Tennessee.

Funeral services were held at 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 11, 2025 at Hughart, Beard & Giles Funeral Home with Rev. Paul Ganther and Rev. Rachel Ganther officiating. Burial followed in Riverside Cemetery.

Jimmie “Jay” Williams, 50, Fruit Hill-Red Bridge Road, Crofton, KY passed away Saturday, November 15, 2025 at his home of natural causes. A celebration of life will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Friday, November 21, 2025 at Lamb Funeral Home.

Stephen T. Finchum, 83, Striped Bridge Road, Hopkinsville, KY passed away Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at his home.

A memorial service will be held at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, November 22, 2025 at Locust Grove Baptist Church with Rev. Gary Mitchell officiating. Lamb Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements.

Visitation will be from noon until the service hour on Saturday, November 22, 2025 at the church.

Minister Wanda June Blaine Dillard, 87, passed away on Sunday, November 16, 2025, in Russellville, KY. Funeral Service, Friday, November 21, 2025 at 1:00 PM, Mt. Olive Baptist Church, 801 East 4th Street, Hopkinsville, KY 42240. Burial at Lafayette Cemetery.

Larry Wayne Ashby, 77, Russellville, passed on Saturday, November 15, 2025. Funeral Service, Monday, November 24 at 1:00 pm - First Baptist Church, 221 S. Spring Street, Russellville, KY - Burial - Greenwood Cemetery.

Howard Lee Russell, 69, of Pembroke, KY died at 2:38 p.m. Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at his residence.

Memorial services were at 12:00 p.m. Monday, November 17, 2025 at Casky Baptist Church with Pastor Jesse Brown officiating.

• CRITTENDEN - MARION •

Mary Anna McGhee, 81 of Elizabethtown, IL, passed away peacefully with her family by her side on Monday, November 17, 2025 at Hardin County General Hospital.

Service for Mary Anna McGhee will be held on Saturday, November 22, 2025 at Hardin County Funeral Service in Rosiclare, IL. at 2pm. Family will receive visitors from 12pm till time of service at 2pm. Burial will follow at Stone Church Cemetery.

Alice Elizabeth Greenwood, age 96, of Marion, KY and formerly of Chicago, IL, passed away on Thursday, November 13, 2025, at her home.

Graveside services will be held on Friday, November 21, 2025, at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Hillside, IL starting at 1:00 PM.

Billy Charles Owen, age 66, of Beaver Dam, Kentucky, passed away Thursday, November 13, 2025, at University of Kentucky Hospital in Lexington, Kentucky.

Visitation was Thursday, November 20, 2025, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at Gilbert Funeral Home in Marion, Kentucky. Funeral services will be at 1:00 pm at the funeral home with Bro. Daimon Glaskox officiating. Burial followed in Frances Cemetery.

Tommy Woodward age 81 of Marion, KY passed away at his home Monday, November 17, 2025. Funeral services for Tommy Woodward were at 12 o’clock noon Wednesday, November 19, 2025 at Myers Funeral Home.

Brandy Denise Baxter age 48 of Marion, KY passed away Friday, November 14, 2025 at her home. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

• GRAVES/HICKMAN/FULTON •

Billy O. Williams, age 89, of Mayfield passed away on Tuesday, November 18, 2025 at Parkview Nursing and Rehab in Paducah, KY.

Funeral services for Mr. Billy O. Williams will be 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 23, 2025 at Byrn Funeral

FUNERAL NOTICES continued

Effie Mae Arant, 95 of Sharpe, Kentucky passed away on Monday, November 17, 2025 at the Stilley House in Benton, Kentucky.
A funeral service was held at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, November 19, 2025 at Collier Funeral Home with Gary Knuckles officiating. Interment followed at Bethlehem Cemetery, Benton, KY.

Jenne Holley, 87 of Benton, Ky passed away on November 17, 2025.
A graveside service will be held at 2:00 PM on Sunday, November 23, 2025 at Hillcrest Cemetery with Rev. Scott Penick officiating.
Steve Colson, age 66 of Benton, KY died on Sunday, November 16, 2025, at his home. No services are scheduled at this time.

Kimberley Downs Mounts, 58 of Benton, Kentucky passed away on Saturday, November 15, 2025 at Marshall Co. Hospital in Benton, Kentucky.
A funeral service will be at 1:00 PM on Saturday, November 22, 2025 at Collier Funeral Home with Everett Mounts, II officiating. Interment will follow at Mt. Kenton Cemetery in Paducah, KY.
Visitation will begin at 11:00 AM until 1:00 PM on Saturday, November 22, 2025 at Collier Funeral Home, 211 West 5th, Benton, Kentucky.

Dylan Bell, 16, of Benton, Kentucky passed away on Saturday, November 15, 2025.
A funeral service was at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, November 19, 2025 at Collier Funeral Home.

Judy Lassiter, 72, of Benton, Kentucky, passed away on November 13, 2025, at the Ray and Kay Eckstein Hospice Care Center in Paducah.
Visitation will be held from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM on Sunday, November 23, 2025, at the Life Celebration Center of Filbeck-Cann, 1003 Poplar Street, Benton, KY.
A memorial service will be held at 3:00 PM on Sunday, November 23, 2025, at the Life Celebration Center of Filbeck-Cann with Bro. Mark Thweatt officiating. Burial will follow at Ford Cemetery.

Michael Wayne Wilkerson, 72, of Benton, Kentucky, passed away on November 13, 2025, at Mercy Health Lourdes Hospital.
Visitation was held from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM on Saturday, November 15, 2025, at the Life Celebration Center of Filbeck-Cann, 1003 Poplar Street, Benton, KY.
A graveside committal service took place at New Hope Primitive Baptist Church.

• McCRACKEN COUNTY •

Richard “Dick” Lewis, 83, of Paducah, Kentucky, passed away at 5:08 p.m. Monday at Baptist Health Paducah . Private visitation and burial will be conducted.

Truman Franklin Williams, 91, passed away peacefully on Monday, November 17, 2025, at Parkview Nursing & Rehabilitation Center.
Graveside services will be held at 1:00 pm on Friday, November 21, 2025, at Woodlawn Memorial Gardens with Bro. Phillip Raley officiating.
Visitation will be held from 10:30 am until 12:30 pm on Friday, November 21, 2025, at the Lone Oak Chapel of Milner & Orr Funeral Home. 3745 Old US Hwy. 45 S. Paducah, KY 42003.

William Dale Burns, 71, of Benton, Kentucky, passed away on Sunday, November 16, 2025, at Baptist Health Paducah.
A funeral service will be held at 2:00 PM on Friday, November 21, 2025, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah with Bro. Kenneth Puckett officiating. Burial will follow at Maplelawn Park Cemetery.
Visitation will be held from 12:00 PM until the service hour of 2:00 PM on Friday, November 21, 2025, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah.

Thomas “Tommy” McMurtry, 94, passed away on November 16, 2025, at Mercy Health - Lourdes Hospital.
Funeral services will be held at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, November 21, 2025, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah with Tommy’s grandson, Nathan Freeman, officiating. Visitation will begin at 10:00 a.m. Friday at the funeral home.

Connie Diane Peyton, age 72, of Paducah,

Kentucky, passed away on Saturday, November 15, 2025, at 7:21 a.m. at Baptist Health Paducah.
Services were held on Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. at the Lone Oak Chapel of Milner & Orr Funeral Home with Benjamin Linzy officiating. Burial followed at Woodlawn Memorial Gardens.

Funeral Notice

Paid obituary furnished to KPI Newspaper Group

Betty Lou Jerrell

Betty Lou Jerrell, 90, of Kevil, Kentucky, left her earthly home of 71 years for her heavenly home on Friday, November 14, 2025.

Betty was born March 26, 1935, in the Kevil area of Ballard County to the late Terry and Eileen Shelby. She was a long-time employee of the Kevil Bank and began her career there when she was in high school. She continued to work there part-time through the years until returning to full-time in 1977 in the loan department. She became Vice President in the early 1990s and continued in that capacity until she retired in June 2013, when the Kevil Bank was sold. She and her husband, Hugh, were involved in the harness horse industry for many years, where Hugh owned, trained, and drove harness horses. They and their children would spend each summer living in the Louisville and Lexington area, racing, and return home each fall to train on their farm in Kevil.

Betty was an accomplished pianist and organist and began playing at the Kevil Methodist Church when she was in her early teens. She has continued to play the organ there until early October of this year. Through the years, she played for many weddings, funerals, and occasions in the area. She was a life-long, devoted member of the Kevil United Methodist Church and

also a 40-year member of the Ballard County Homemakers and Kevil Junior Homemakers Club. She was also a volunteer for Ballard County 4H over the past years. Most of all, she was a devoted and loving Mother and Grandmother, “Maw Betty” to her children, grandchildren, and many others.
She is survived by her daughter, Joni Jordan of Kevil; son, Randal (Paula) Jerrell of Kevil;

a sister, Ruth Bowles, of Kevil; Grandsons, Jeremy (Ashlee) Jordan of Kevil, and Clayton (Carli) Jerrell of Newburgh, Indiana; great-grandsons, Nash Jordan and Wyatt Jerrell; and great-granddaughters, Savannah and Emma Henderson.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Hugh T. Jerrell, son-in-law, Mark Edward Jordan, and a sister, Ann Trent.

Funeral services will be held at 1:00 pm on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah with Pastor Cindy Engelhardt officiating. Burial will follow at Woodville Cemetery.
Visitation will be held from 10:00 am until the service time of 1:00 pm on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at the funeral home.

Expressions of sympathy may take the form of donations to the Woodville Cemetery Fund, c/o Pat Sullivan, 1031 New Liberty Church Rd., Kevil, KY 42053.



Share a memory or leave a message for the family at www.milnerandorr.co.

Betty Lou Jerrell, 90, of Kevil, Kentucky, left her earthly home of 71 years for her heavenly home on Friday, November 14, 2025.
Funeral services were held at 1:00 pm on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at Milner & Orr Funeral Home of Paducah with Pastor Cindy Engelhardt officiating. Burial followed at Woodville Cemetery.

Margaret Ellen Baysinger, age 95, entered her

Heavenly Home on November 16, 2025. At Mercy Health Lourdes in Paducah, KY. Margaret services will be held at a later date.

Brenda Fay Wilkerson, 79 of Paducah passed away Saturday November 15, 2025 at her home.
A family planned memorial service will be 1 p.m. Saturday November 22, 2025 at Kingdom Hall of Jehovah Witnesses, 3035 Parker Street, Paducah, Kentucky 42003

Patricia “Pat” Teas, age 76, entered her Heavenly home on November 13, 2025.
A graveside service will be held on November 26 at 1:00 at Woodlawn Memorial Garden & Mausoleum, where family and friends will gather to honor her life and celebrate the promise of eternal peace.

Terry S. Peyton, known as Steve to his loved ones, passed away on November 10, 2025 surrounded by his loved ones in Paducah, Kentucky.
Funeral services were held at 11:00 AM on Friday, November 14, 2025, at Hughes Funeral Home in Paducah with Bro. Tommy Gleeson officiating. Burial followed at Woodlawn Memorial Gardens in Paducah.

• TRIGG COUNTY •

Freda Rae Queener - February 20, 1942 - November 16, 2025. She passed away on Sunday, November 16, 2025 at her daughter’s home in Trenton, KY. A Private Celebration of Life for 83 year old Freda Rae Queener of Pembroke will be held at a later date.

James T. “Bama” Rogers, age 74, of Cadiz, Kentucky, passed away on Saturday, November 15, 2025, at Alive Hospice in Nashville, Tennessee. There will be no services at this time.

Mary Ruth McCormick Bridges, age 88, of Cadiz, Kentucky, passed away on Saturday, November 15, 2025, at her home. A graveside service was held at 11:00 AM, Monday, November 17, 2025, at Starkie Thomas Cemetery, 114 Tom Sumner Road, Cadiz, Kentucky, with Bro. Wesley Curtis and Bro. Jeff Boone officiating.

Smitty Joe P’Pool, age 72, of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, passed away on Thursday, November 13, 2025, in Nashville, Tennessee.
Arrangements are being handled by Goodwin Funeral Home, Inc., 138 Main Street in Cadiz, where the family will receive friends from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Saturday, November 22, 2025. A Celebration of Life service will begin at 1:00 PM, with burial to follow in Robertson Hite Cemetery in Cadiz.

Russell Fain Calhoun, age 54, of Cadiz, Kentucky, passed away on Friday, November 14, 2025, at his home. A visitation was held on Monday, November 17, 2025, 3-5 PM, at Goodwin Funeral Home, 138 Main Street in Cadiz.

• UNION COUNTY •

Herman “Gerald” Hosman, 83, of the “Y” Community, Sturgis, KY passed away on November 17, 2025, at his home, surrounded by his loving family. Services will be held at Whitsell Funeral Home in Morganfield, KY. Visitation will be Friday, 11/21/2025 4PM-8PM, and Saturday 11/22/2025 10AM-11AM, with services to follow at 11AM.

Sharron Ann Merrick age 85 of Uniontown passed away on Friday November 14, 2025 at the Deaconess Hospital in Henderson, KY. Funeral was at 10 AM on Tuesday 11/18/2025 at Whitsell Funeral Home in Morganfield, KY. Chaplin Tim Shockley will officiate

Gladys Lovell Hite age 96 of Morganfield, passed away on Friday November 14, 2025 at the Breckinridge Place in Morganfield, KY. Funeral Service was at 12 PM on Monday 11/17/2025 at the St. Ann Catholic Church in Morganfield, KY. Fr. Freddie Byrd will officiate.

• WEBSTER •

Robert Wayne Smith 68, of Madisonville, KY formerly of Dixon, KY passed away on Friday November 14th, 2025 at Baptist Health Deaconess in Madisonville, KY. Cremation was chosen and there will be no services. Townsend Funeral home in Dixon, KY is handling the arrangements.

To place a full obituary, including a photo, call 270-442-7389 for details and pricing. Obituaries and funeral notices should be received by 9 a.m. Wednesday for inclusion in that week’s paper.

VICTORIOUS

Living...in a troubled world

... Consider all the worlds His hands have made

By Teresa LeNeave
Leneave2@comcast.net

Recently, while studying the book of Revelation, the importance of praise hit me hard. Maybe because it's Thanksgiving season. Or, maybe because I need to praise more. Expressing thanksgiving is much more than saying 'thank you' and naming off a long list of good things He has done for us.

In the history of the United States, George Washington was immensely popular after the Revolutionary war. Everyone was ready for him to be king or dictator. He could have taken any title he wanted, but instead he chose to share his glory and go a different route that involved giving "all the people" a voice. That was his way of showing gratitude for freedom. He had the political backing

to be a dictator, but he chose to show his thankfulness by sharing his glory.

In some ways, Jesus did the same thing. By His death and resurrection, He won the victory over sin and Satan and then said we could be kings and priest with Him. Revelation 5: 9-10.

In Revelation 5, a love scene is played out in the words of a song. Heavenly beings sing with great praise, devotion and adoration to God as their voices ring in unison, "Worth are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain and by your blood you ransomed people, for God, from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth (Rev: 5:9 ESV). These beings sing this over and over and over.



The next scene unfolds as praise pours from thousands and thousands and thousands of voices. You can almost feel the love they have for Jesus as they say: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" (Rev 5:12 ESV).

The elders took their crowns and threw them at the feet of Jesus because Jesus alone deserves the praise for purchasing us by his blood on the cross. Here on earth, we sometimes forget to praise with open and full hearts.

We forget what He did. We forget the reward He promises those who overcome. Why wouldn't we

be thankful when Jesus promised us such a wonderful "pay for service". In Revelation 22:12 we read, "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." The word "reward" simply means "a pay for service".

The more we praise and adore Him, the

deeper our love for Him grows. Praise is like a sponge dipped in warm water. The more water you pour on a sponge, the more it swells. Praise is like that. The more we praise, the more joy and peace swells in our hearts. "Oh, Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder ... consider all the worlds His hands have made..."

OUTDOOR

Truths

By Gary Miller

Outdoortruths.org

When I'm bow hunting, one of the first things I do is range distances, so I don't have to do it when(if) a deer shows up. After ranging these distances, I find a marker to remind me of what that distance is. The second thing I do (and do it throughout the hunt) is visualize where and how a deer might show up – and how I would respond. I think

about angles. I look at obstacles. And I visualize how I will have to maneuver how I'm sitting in order to position myself for a shot. I will also raise my bow to simulate how it all could go down. Every hunter does this. It sounds simplistic and even immature, but what we do is pretend. Probably the same thing we did as a kid. Yeah, I know that doesn't sound too professional, but

that's exactly what it is. It just pretending a desired or potential situation. And the truth is, if I have visualized (pretended) it enough, when reality comes, the chances are I will be less surprised, less uncertain, and more confident. And if done repeatedly, I will drown out negative thoughts and doubts that will flood my mind during a real encounter.

Visualizing or pretending is not faking it until you make it. It's visualizing or pretending what you already know and who you already are. Because there are voices and past situations that are always there to try to tell you something different.

Pretending is a great tool – in life – and as a Christian. It allows us to feed our minds the truth about who we are, whose we are, and the truth about our circumstances, until the encounter comes. Let me explain. Right now, you feel like God has forgotten about you, that He's nowhere to be found, and even that He doesn't care. That's what you "feel." But you "know" that's not the truth. You know it from what the scriptures say

and from your past experiences, and from the present and past experiences of others. Your feelings cause doubt, uncertainty, and a loss of confidence. But because you know, you pretend. You visualize. You imagine. But not because of fantasy. Because of reality. Here's how that looks. When you're in the season of doubt, you pick up your Bible. You range the distance it covers and begin pretending with sentences like these. "God has not forgotten about me." "God has never left me and will never leave me." "God cares about my life and all that I'm going through." "God loves me because He just can't help it." And say these and do these not because you're pretending

to have a hope-so possibility, but because you have been bombarded with lies that have affected how you feel. As hard as it may be right now, start pretending what you already know is a reality.

Join me every Tuesday morning on Zoom as we dig a little deeper into this article. 7:30 eastern time. Go to the website for the link.

Gary Miller
gary@outdoortruths.org

Gary Miller has written Outdoor Truths articles for 23 years. He has also written five books which include compilations of his articles and a father/son devotional. He also speaks at wild-game dinners and men's events for churches and associations. Stay updated on Outdoor Truths each week by subscribing at Outdoortruths.org

Seeing our reflection in God’s eyes

By William F Holland Jr.
billyhollandministries.com

We have been discussing the need for Christians to be continuously willing to examine their biased opinions about life and the Bible. Remember the person who boldly declared, “I am what I am, and this is what I will always be?” It’s sad to imagine how many individuals actually feel this way about what they believe and who they are. Human nature is stubborn and sneaky. We seldom know people on the inside, as the conscience often views life as a poker game, holding certain cards close so that no one can see them. However, humans fail to comprehend that the way we live exposes what we believe we are hiding. We know what is in the well will come up in the bucket, and being secretive with the world does not matter near as much as ignoring and being in denial with God.

So, why and how do we refuse to recognize and deal with our weaknesses? Simple; We ignore and deny the conviction of the Holy Spirit’s call to step back and see ourselves the way God sees us. Most everyone has a deliberate hatred to change,

and one aspect of the agonizing attempt to discover and re-arrange who we really are, is a psychological problem called The Dunning-Kruger effect. It’s a cognitive bias in which people become confused and wrongly overestimate their perception, knowledge, or ability in a specific area. This can apply to any subject and is basically a lack of understanding reality along with an inflated attitude of pride, hindering them from being a reliable and respected source of truth.

It’s no surprise that many individuals rate their intelligence, logic, grammar, and personality far above average. According to these studies, those who performed at the lowest levels were convinced they were highly intelligent and believed those around them perceived them as bright and clever. It’s thought that confidence is so high on our self-esteem list that people would rather pretend to be smart than risk being embarrassed or labeled mentally inadequate. In other words, the world is not short of people who are know-it-alls about everything, because they are insecure about everything. I

Peter 5:5-6 says, “In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, as God opposes the proud, but shows favor to the humble. Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.” Peter references Proverbs 3:34 to show how the choice to be humble is not just about human relationships. God’s natural response to pride is to oppose, but His reaction to humility is to reward with grace.

Those who are considered brilliant can also be plagued with this problem, as having intelligence and knowledge is not the same as developing and learning how to be like Jesus. Research attributes this attitude to “metacognition,” the inability to honestly analyze one’s own thoughts and personality. Those with limited knowledge in a domain suffer a dual burden: Not only do they reach mistaken conclusions and make regrettable errors, but their incompetence robs them of the ability to realize it. Why do people think they know more than they

do? They are often driven by a desire for respect and admiration and the need to appear smarter than the people around them. Why do people overestimate their competence? This refers to the difference between what people think they know and what they really know.

I’m reminded of the old saying, “The more I learn, the more I discover I do not know” which is a more modest way of perceiving ourselves and life in general. So what does this have to

do with our Christian life? Everything. If we see ourselves as having no personal faults and that God does not care about our sins, we are living in an illusion that is preventing us from pleasing Him. If we believe we are doing everything right, we disregard our need to repent, and thus are drifting further away from God every day. This twisted thinking is a self-inflicted deception that rejects the responsibility of admitting we are sinners who desperately need God every

moment. The Apostle Paul speaks about this in Romans 12:3. “For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of themselves more highly than they ought, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.”

Dr. Holland is a Christian minister, author, and community outreach chaplain. Ask for a free download of his song, “Intentions of the Heart” at psalmz103@gmail.com



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THE GREATNESS OF WEAKNESS

Bro. Brandon G. Bramlett
Bandana Baptist Church

It wasn’t the hottest sermon I had ever preached, but it was certainly the hottest building I had ever preached in. I was scheduled to preach to a group of eager youngsters at a youth summer camp, but I had no idea that obstacles were also on the schedule. In the middle of the week, the air conditioning kicked off in the chapel, elevating the indoor temperature to about 90°. When it was my time to preach, I couldn’t concentrate. I was

saturated in perspiration, and the students were straining to stay cool. To make matters worse, not one student came to the altar at the end of the service.

Later that evening, a student named Alex remarked, “Brother Brandon, I’m gonna be honest with you—and no offense—but I didn’t hear a single word you said.” Jeez! Talk about adding insult to injury! However, Alex repented of his sins in that very hour, and explained to me that God was speaking so loudly to him during my ser-

mon that he couldn’t hear me at all! To this day, that was the best post-sermon compliment I have ever received.

Paul the apostle was right—the power to save souls rests not in the messenger, but in the message:

“And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear

and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God” (1 Corinthians 2:1-5).

God will use you despite your imperfections and inadequacies. Preach to the unsaved even when you are nervous or uncertain. Disciple the hungry souls under your care even when your efforts appear fruitless. Encourage the

despondent even when you feel that your words won’t make a difference. Pray for the wayward even when it feels like your prayers go no higher than the ceiling.

Do not rely on your skills or speaking abilities; instead, rely on God’s strength and His promise to speak through you (Matthew 10:20). Do not confide in your own intelligence or wisdom; rather, trust in the Lord’s incomprehensible power to convert souls (Romans 1:16). Do not give up if you see no success when

doing the work of the Lord—depend on the sufficiency of God’s grace (2 Corinthians 9:8).

Don’t forsake doing good if you think you’re not any good at doing good! D.L. Moody once said, “If you don’t go to work for the Lord because you’re afraid of making mistakes, you will probably make the greatest mistake of your life—that of doing nothing.”

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Sudoku Answers

8	7	6	1	9	3	4	5	2
5	9	2	6	4	8	1	3	7
1	4	3	5	7	2	9	8	6
9	2	1	8	6	7	3	4	5
7	3	5	9	2	4	8	6	1
4	6	8	3	1	5	7	2	9
3	1	7	2	8	6	5	9	4
6	5	9	4	3	1	2	7	8
2	8	4	7	5	9	6	1	3

Word Search Answers

I	C	N	W	H	S	I	E	F	V	S	E	O	H	I	S	E	V	A
E	B	V	I	D	I	G	I	W	G	G	I	T	R	I	S	R	V	E
N	O	I	H	A	O	I	B	M	C	D	E	A	V	O	I	T	N	D
I	L	H	N	B	A	G	N	J	R	A	W	I	S	B	S	L	T	D
I	O	O	S	A	V	I	T	S	O	S	I	O	V	T	I	A	N	V
D	P	E	S	M	E	T	R	H	A	L	O	N	C	A	I	N	G	N
W	O	T	G	R	E	O	H	A	D	I	O	N	C	I	N	A	I	N
T	C	I	E	N	H	V	O	N	N	O	I	A	V	A	V	N	O	S
A	L	A	A	O	O	H	A	C	O	J	C	O	O	V	N	S	A	W
S	9	d	8	A	S	C	O	S	H	B	O	O	O	N	V	A	C	C
C	d	V	H	O	H	W	g	T	N	E	d	d	T	R	d	S	I	C
N	O	I	I	N	E	A	E	R	d	T	V	d	S	S	I	C	V	d
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7151 US HWY 4 • PADUCAH MLS #123564 19+ acres with much potential. Could be used as commercial site, subdivision, or residential estate. Consists of 2 tracts of land. 12+ acres on Hwy 25 and 6+ on Englert for a total of 19.18. Entrance to both on US Hwy 45. Sold as one parcel. A well was installed about 10 yrs ago but has never run on a continuous basis. Has electricity on property. \$189,900 Contact Carla Bridges @ REMAX at 270-559-8425

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For Sale: New and Used Christmas Toys and Tools. Rosanna's Place Salem Ky. Thurs -Fri. 8-4. Sat. 8-1

Dioubate can’t wait to play at Madison Square Garden in return to native NYC

By KEITH TAYLOR
Kentucky Today

LEXINGTON, Ky. (KT) — Mouhamed Dioubate is looking forward to returning to his roots.

The Kentucky forward and Alabama transfer grew up in Queens, New York, and will feel right at home when the No. 9 Wildcats take on 17th-ranked Michigan State on Tuesday in the State Farm Classic at Madison Square Garden.

“Otega (Oweh) had that moment last year,” Dioubate said. “I can’t

wait to play in New York. It’s gonna be my first time playing in New York in my collegiate career. I’m going to have family and friends come out to watch me. That’s every kid’s dream to play at the Garden. It’s a full-circle moment.”

Although he grew up in New York, Dioubate wasn’t a New York Knicks fan, but instead favored Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers.

“I kind of supported the Knicks, I just wasn’t a fan,” he said.

Going into the contest against the Spartans,

Dioubate is coming off his best performance as a Wildcat. Dioubate scored 20 points and grabbed 11 rebounds in Kentucky’s 99-53 win over Eastern Illinois last Friday night. Along with his scoring and rebounding contributions, Dioubate also helped in the backcourt to help take pressure off in the absence of point guard Jaland Lowe.

“They know I can handle the ball, so they just tell me once I get the ball to start the break or give the pass ahead,” he said. “Coach (Mark Pope)

tells me that all the time, just run the offense and to start the transition offense, so that’s been a big thing.”

Another big thing for Dioubate has been stepping up as a leader in his junior campaign.

“I’ve been trying to do that a lot,” he said. “Coming to this team, Coach Pope told me that one of the things that he wanted me to be was a vocal leader for the team. I’ve been one of the guys who speaks up when it’s time to be spoken too. Myself Otega (Oweh)

and Collin (Chandler) have been doing a very good job as well. Even with Malachi (Moreno) being a young guy, he’s one of our vocal leaders. Especially on offense and throughout the game. He’s always talking.”

Pope was pleased with Dioubate’s performance against Eastern Illinois, but thinks he has more room to grow, especially on the defensive end of the court.

“I think we are leaving a lot on the table in terms of how disruptive we can be,” Pope said. “I thought

he made some progress towards that. It’s going to be a big deal for him.”

Pope added that Dioubate and Oweh should be on the same page and create havoc on defense.

“Him and Otega should be buying for the best defensive players in the country right now,” Pope said. “So far, they haven’t been close, and that’s ok. But for us to be great, they’ve got to get there. I thought we saw some good signs from Mo in that respect.”

Record number of county grants awarded

By TOM LATEK
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – The Kentucky Department of Agriculture has awarded a record number of county fair grants this year for new construction and renovations projects with 10 grants totaling \$748,793.13, Commissioner Jonathan Shell has announced.

“For agricultural communities across the state, county fairs lie at their cores,” Shell said. “I’m thrilled to announce we were able to award grants to a record number of counties this year by providing funding to 10 local county fair boards for vital infrastructure improvements. These grants will allow county fair boards to enrich the fair experience for their communities and their agricultural partners.”



The amount and the recipient of each grant include:

--Ballard County: \$44,117.19 for site prep and installation of a horse barn and metal stalls.

--Boyd County: \$62,233.50 for nine sets of bleachers and concrete.

--Clark County: \$15,984 for roof repair, a pageant room expansion, and replacement of the show ring fence and lighting.

--Clinton County: \$75,859.30 for arena fencing and a gate, concrete safety walls and guard rails, a new announcer stand, speakers at the arena and track, a new

flagpole, and replacement of the septic system.

--Germantown Fair: \$100,000 for building renovations including windows, doors, insulation, HVAC, electric, siding, roof.

--Hart County: \$70,746.60 for reconstruction of an exhibit hall roof, porch overhangs, walkways, lighting, fencing, and public announcement system.

--Laurel County:

\$100,000 for restrooms and concession building.

--Oldham County: \$100,000 for two sets of bleachers, asphalt/concrete walkways, and a new agriculture building.

--Pulaski County: \$79,852.54 to replace outdoor lighting and HVAC, and a building upgrade.

--Shelby County – \$100,000 for renovation of a horse barn.

Any incorporated fair

board in Kentucky may apply with the State Aid to Local Agricultural Fairs Program for grants of \$10,000-\$100,000. Each grant will fund 75 percent of the total cost of the project, with the local fair board matching the other 25 percent. Each project must be started within 90 days of the date the project was awarded and must be completed within nine months. Find out more about the program at kyagr.com/marketing/county-fair-program.html.



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Kentucky one of first states to have SNAP benefits reloaded

By **TOM LATEK**
Kentucky Today

FRANKFORT, Ky. (KT) – Gov. Andy Beshear announced Saturday morning that eligible SNAP recipients in Kentucky should see their benefits loaded on their cards shortly, becoming one of the first states to process full benefits for recipients.

“Once again, members of Team Kentucky worked through the night to process SNAP benefits to ensure their fellow Kentuckians didn’t have to wait a minute longer to receive the support they need to feed their loved ones,” said Gov. Beshear. “Despite the President’s refusal to

release these benefits, Kentucky has remained committed to doing everything we can to be there for our neighbors. Our government should fight hunger – not cause it – and we’re committed to leading with our values and doing what’s right.”

Due to the federal government shut-down, on Nov. 1, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, which almost 600,000 Kentuckians rely on to supplement their grocery budgets, were suspended. The Governor and state officials quickly took steps to help Kentuckians in need.

Gov. Beshear joined leaders from 24 other

states and the District of Columbia in challenging the Trump administration over its unlawful decision to suspend SNAP. On Oct. 31, a federal judge ruled in favor of Kentucky and demanded that funding be partially restored. On Nov. 6, Kentucky became one of the first states to process those partial benefits.

Prior to that news and in preparation for any delays following the Oct. 31 ruling, Gov. Beshear signed an executive order declaring a state of emergency, directed \$5 million from the budget reserve trust fund to Feeding Kentucky food banks, and authorized the Kentucky National Guard

to assist in staffing food banks as needed. The Governor also directed more than \$12 million in state funds during the month of November to temporarily support the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

State officials are also hosting a food drive, accepting non-perishable food at main state office buildings in Frankfort and at the L&N Building in Louisville. Donated items are being distributed throughout the state via Dare to Care,

God’s Pantry and the Christian Appalachian Project.

For updates, Kentuckians can visit the Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) website or their Self-Service Portal (SSP) account.

Grant provides \$2 million for families dealing with pediatric cancer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (KT) – Gov. Andy Beshear joined the Kentucky Pediatric Cancer Research Trust Fund (KPCRTF) Board, pediatric cancer organizations and advocates at Gilda’s Club Kentuckiana on Friday to announce \$2 million in grant funding to support Kentucky kids and families impacted by the disease.

The grant funding went to seven local hospitals and nonprofit organizations that provide financial aid, emotional support and other critical services for families navigating a pediatric cancer diagnosis.

“Every child deserves to grow up healthy and happy, which is why Team Kentucky has been committed to helping fund childhood cancer research and support for these brave children and families,” Beshear said. “These incredible organizations help ease the burdens that families face after a pediatric cancer diagnosis, and I am hopeful these funds will support them as they continue this lifesaving work.”

This latest round of funding adds to the \$1.9 million that the Governor announced in May, bringing this year’s total to more than \$3.9 million awarded for family

support grants. The funding comes from the record \$14 million for pediatric cancer research and support that Gov. Beshear secured in the 2024-2026 state budget.

“Presenting these family support grants today is a powerful testament to the compassion of the entire Commonwealth,” said KPCRTF Board Member Heather Jones. “These funds go straight to the front lines of the fight, offering crucial psychosocial support. This direct support is just as vital as the research we fund; it’s where hope and healing begin.”

The Kentucky Pediatric Cancer Research Trust Fund’s mission makes childhood cancer a state health priority and access for all Kentucky children to innovative cancer research, precision therapy with less toxicity and comprehensive psychosocial support. Our efforts include a better understanding of cancer risk factors, epidemiology within the state and health implications of long-term survivorship. Our efforts target the needs and challenges specific to children of the commonwealth impacted by pediatric cancer to serve as a national model for other states.

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FARMERS' Quarterly

★ ★ ★ **THANK YOU FARMERS!** ★ ★ ★

Regional students honored as Murray State FFA All-Region stars

By Laurna Todd
KPI Writer

The Hutson School of Agriculture at Murray State University recently recognized outstanding high school students from across the region during its annual FFA All-Region Stars Banquet. The recognition is based on students' demonstrated leadership, service, and commitment to

their local FFA chapters. Carlisle County High School celebrated four honorees this year, with Tucker, Kaidance, Kase, and Jonah all named Murray State University FFA All-Region Stars. Faculty and staff said they are proud of the students' accomplishments over the past four years and look forward to what the remainder of

their senior year will bring. Graves County High School also had three members recognized at the banquet. Darcey Sloan, Mannix Hamilton, and Brandon Hale were honored as Purchase Region FFA Stars, earning recognition for their leadership and dedication throughout their FFA careers. Fulton County FFA celebrated two senior officers, Emmarie and

Cara, who were selected as Murray State All-Star recipients. Chapter leaders noted that both students have consistently gone above and beyond in their roles and have demonstrated strong commitment to their school's FFA program. Several other schools from Western Kentucky also participated, though additional student names were not available before press

time. Carlisle County FFA advisor Mercedes Branham said the recognition is meaningful for students who have put in years of hard work. "It's an honor for our students to receive this recognition. It helps them see that their dedication does not go unnoticed," she said. Branham added that FFA chapters play a vital role in school programs and expressed hope that

all schools continue to offer agricultural education opportunities. The Murray State Hutson School of Agriculture was thanked by participating schools for its ongoing support of FFA members throughout the region. The All-Region Star honor remains one of the highest distinctions for students involved in agricultural education and leadership.



Carlisle County High School FFA students: L to R: Kaidance Vela, Tucker Arnold, Kase Kelly, Jonah Bruer



Graves County High School FFA students: L to R: Mannix Hamilton, Darcey Sloan, and Brandon Hale



Fulton County High School FFA students: L to R: Cara Capps and Emmarie Cermak

Investing in on-farm grain storage pays off for local farmers

By Laurna Todd
KPI Writer

For farmers, harvest is the culmination of months of hard work, but it also brings challenges. Timing, equipment, and labor all affect the efficiency and profitability of bringing grain from field to market. One solution that pays for itself is on-farm grain storage. Storing grain on the farm gives growers

flexibility to sell when market conditions are favorable, often capturing higher prices and additional buyers that may not be available at harvest. But the benefits don't stop there. On-farm storage systems also improve efficiency throughout harvest. Trucks keep moving with receiving systems in place, reducing labor, fuel, and downtime. Bucket elevators and chain

loops replace the hassle of moving augers, speeding up grain handling while protecting quality. For high-value equipment like combines, adequate on-farm storage and drying allows farmers to operate more efficiently, widen the harvest window, and reduce extra labor or machinery expenses. Safety and employee well-being are also improved, as a well-

designed system reduces long hours, rushed work, and the risk of mistakes. Plus, it gives farm families more time together during the busy harvest season. In Western Kentucky, Workman Bins Inc. in Mayfield is a trusted partner for farmers looking to invest in on-farm storage. Jason Workman helps growers determine the right bin size and equipment for their

operation, without overspending on unnecessary extras. With a fully stocked inventory of parts, Workman Bins ensures farmers can quickly address maintenance needs and keep operations running smoothly. GSI grain bins, offered locally through Workman Bins, provide durability, reliability, and industry-leading design, making them a

smart long-term investment. By combining quality storage, expert guidance, and local support, on-farm grain systems can improve efficiency, protect your harvest, and pay for themselves over time. Farmers interested in learning more can contact Jason Workman at Workman Bins Inc, 400 Opportunity Drive, Mayfield, KY, 270-209-0259.



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- #3 Agriculture provides 24 million jobs.
- #4 U.S. farmers produce about 40% of the world's corn.
- #5 An average U.S. farmer feeds 155 people.
- #6 For every o\$1 spent on food, farmers receive less than 12¢ for the raw products.
- #7 Most farms are family owned. These families take on exceptional risk and tight margins in order to make ends meet.
- #8 Only 210,000 full-time U.S. farmers produce 80% of our food and fiber.
- #9 The world's population will grow from 7 million to 9 million by 2050. Farmers will need to double food production to keep pace.
- #10 Americans spend only 10% of their incomes on food. That's the lowest percentage of any country.

5 ways to thank a farmer

By Teresa Pearson
Farmers' Quarterly Writer

To celebrate Farmer's, we are saluting the farmers of today and tomorrow who work hard year-round to provide a food supply to the world.

Agriculture, food, and related industries contributed over \$1 trillion to the country's GDP, according to the USDA. Farmers are the most important part of the agricultural supply chain and farmers keep many industries thriving.

Here are five ways to celebrate Thank a farmer

- Thank farmers for their hard work to protect our food supply and power our nation. Share kind words and appreciation via a card or on social media. Buy a farmer a cup of coffee or even pay for their meal when you see them out.
- Support the next generation of young farmers to help ensure agriculture's future. Organizations like the National FFA Organization and 4-H emphasize the lasting impact of agricultural production through young people.
- Purchasing produce and products made with farmer's crops at a local market is a great way to say thanks. Check with a local farmer to buy meat and other products they sell locally.
- Learn more about local agriculture to help make informed decisions, in turn helping farmers in your area and across the country. Take the time to learn about methods of production, government programs, and laws regarding farming. Also, visit a local farm for some additional knowledge on how food gets from the field to your plate.
- Take time this week to reflect on what we can do throughout the year to support farmers.

To our farmers, thank you for keeping the world fed. Your commitment drives the agricultural supply chain.

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9 Holiday tradition rooted in Agriculture

'Tis the season for feasting with friends and family, singing nostalgic Christmas carols, and decorating sugar cookies and gingerbread houses. We all have our favorite family traditions this time of year, but have you ever wondered how many of them are rooted in agriculture? Here are eight favorite holiday traditions from around the world that can be traced back to the farm.

1. **Christmas Trees**

Found in millions of homes, dotting countless holiday cards and in virtually every Christmas movie on television, the humble Christmas

tree is perhaps the most obvious holiday tradition that is connected to agriculture. While fewer Americans than ever are growing up on picturesque farms these days, you can't help but envision (and maybe even long for) one at this time of year. Christmas trees are a popular tradition throughout the United States, with anywhere from 25 to 36 million fresh-cut trees making their way from the farm to people's homes each year.

2. **Christmas Dinner**

Because the U.S. is such a melting pot, it's hard to narrow down the Christmas

meal to a single dish. But most people's holiday meals are centered around meat, with turkey, ham and roast beef being the most popular dishes found on American tables during the holidays. It almost goes without saying that you wouldn't be able to enjoy your holiday feast without the help of a hardworking farm

3. **Yule Logs**

Did you know the famous Yule log tradition was born in ancient Norway? This historic tradition began when the ancient Norse started burning logs to celebrate the return of the sun at winter solstice. Yule, in Norse,

translates to wheel, which ties into their belief that the sun was a great wheel of fire. Even if you don't burn a Yule log of your own this season, you might enjoy gathering around a crackling fireplace or munching on log-shaped cheeses, cakes and other tasty treats during the holidays.

4. **Mistletoe**

Today we all get a good laugh out of kissing under the mistletoe, but this ancient tradition can be traced back to the early Celts and Teutons. They believed sprigs of mistletoe could not only heal wounds but increase fertility. They even performed fertility rituals beneath it. Over time, this mysterious plant was also believed to ward off evil spirits and bring good luck into the homes of those who hung it. It wasn't until the Victorian Era in England that we began to see people kissing beneath these bright green sprigs, a behavior that brought many a flushed cheek to those in Victorian society.

5. **Exchanging Presents**

Waking up to brightly wrapped presents beneath the tree is arguably one of the most beloved traditions for those who celebrate Christmas. But there's more to this tradition than meets the eye. Some say this custom can be traced all the



Photo credit: iStock/Liliboas

way back to Roman history and their seven day celebration of Saturnalia. They feasted, decorated and exchanged gifts with the belief that doing so would bring happiness and an abundant harvest in the coming year.

6. **Nativity Scenes**

Many of our holiday traditions that link us to our ancestors revolve around the hope of a better harvest in the new year. Nativity scenes in Finland, for example, often include a Christmas goat made of the last sheaf of wheat from the harvest. This was meant to bring good luck in the coming year. Despite its ancient roots, this is still a common tradition during the winter season in Finland.

7. **Candy Canes**

No explanation needed. Candy canes and Christmas go hand in hand.

8. **Julenisse**

Unless you grew up in Norway or know a lot about Norse culture, you may not be familiar with the Julenisse. Otherwise known as the Christmas gnome, this folklore creation is said to love farm animals and promise to take good care of them for you as long as you hang food in your Christmas tree and in a sock on the mantel and leave him a saucer of porridge to enjoy on Christmas Day.

9. **Holiday Breads**

In Bulgaria, elaborately decorated sweet breads accompany the traditional Christmas meal. But these aren't just any old decorations. Most of these include symbols of farming activities, such as stables and ploughs, animals and vineyards, beehives and grain fields. Folklore says these beautiful breads are one way to ensure a prosperous harvest next season.



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COMBINE: 2019 John Deere S760 Combine, 1,415 Engine Hours, 1,104 Separator Hours, Floater Tires, 2wd, power folding grain extensions, fore, aft, lateral tilt feeder house, single point hookup, Active Vision Camera, 4600 display center, Combine advisor package, grain and tailings cameras, Auto guidance ready, 333 Hp engine, beacon lights, Runs and Operates Well Maintained One Owner Machine, Hours will go up slightly will be used for 2025 harvest, SN#1H0S760SKK0805120;

PLATFORMS & HEADS: 2022 John Deere RD35F Draper Head, Fore/Aft Reel, hydraulic adjustable reel, poly finger reel, marker lights, single point hook up, pto, hookup, Head sells separate from cart, Header will be used for 2025 Harvest, SN:1H0RD35FHN0820196; 2022 John Deere C8R corn head, 8 row, 30 IN. rows, single point hook up, Was purchased new and has been meticulously maintained SN#1H00C8RXLM0815279;

AIR SEEDERS: 2013 John Deere 1990CCS 40 FT. air seeder, 15 IN. rows, CCS seed metering, bulk fill, single disc openers, this planter is in excellent condition and has been very well maintained, SN#1A81990SEDM755129;

FERTILIZER APPLICATOR: 2012 Case 2800 fertilize applicator, 15 knife, 30 IN. on center, 1,500 gallon poly tank, Green Star rate controller, Excellent condition SN#YCD064133;

SPRAYERS: 2004 John Deere 4710 sprayer-2,443 hrs, 100FT. booms, 800 gallon stainless steel tank, hydrostatic transmission, side fill, SN#N04710X006367;

HEADER CARTS: 2018 J&M 4WS15 All Steer Header Cart, 38ft long lights, adjustable feet and adjustable, rail hight, SN# 1803256; J&M header cart, 21 FT. long, was used for 8 row corn head, SN#6486;

GRAIN CART: 2022 J&M X812 grain cart, 850 bushel, PTO driven auger, hydraulic folding auger, tarp, LED lights, auger camera, backup camera, ladder, **They purchased this grain cart new. It is in excellent condition and has been extremely well maintained,*SN#2210709;

SEMI TRAILER: 2019 Timpfe Super Hopper 40Ft Long, 68 inch sides, 24 inch hopper clearance, aluminum wheels, power tarp, clean well maintained trailer. VIN#1TDH40027KB162160;

SEMI: 1999 Kenworth T800 614,611mi. Caterpillar Engine, 8 Speed Transmission, Heat, Air, Radio, wet kit, aluminum wheels, adjustable fifth wheel, Runs and Operates, VIN#1XKDDB9X6XJ797607;

TILLAGE EQUIPMENT: J&M TF212 rolling basket, 32 FT. working width, hydraulic raise and lower, hydraulic fold, Low use on this implement and meticulously maintained, SN#2040006; Landoll 30 foot, folding soil finisher, 3 section, hydraulic raise & lower, 3 bar spike drag, rear hitch;

GRAVITY WAGONS: Killbros 385 Gravity wagon mounted on Killbros 1386 running gear, 385 bushel, front ladder, lights, Shur Lok Roll Tarp, Rear hitch, 385/65R22.5 Tires; Killbros 385 Gravity Wagon, Side discharge, Rainbow Industries Roll Tarp, Front Ladder Rear Hitch, lights; Rotary Mowers: Bush Hog 296 Rotary Mower 3 point mount, 540 PTO, rear wheel, SN: 12-06378; GPS Receivers: Starfire 6000 Reciever with SF 1 activation; John Deere Starfire 6000 Reciver with RTK Activation;

MOWER: Husqvarna PZT60 Zero Turn Mower, Hours unverified, ROPS, 60 inch deck, Hydro trans, Runs and Operates, SN# 021315f001344;

PUMPS: Briggs and Stratton Gas Powered Pump; Rate Controllers: Raven SCS440 Rate Controler with nozzels, and plugs; Storage Tanks: 1600 Gallon Poly Tank, center top fill, 2 inch outlet;



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For the love of American farmers

By Teresa Pearson
Farmers' Quarterly
writer

A farmer's main goal is to produce a good crop and/or healthy animals in order to make a living and to feed the population. Farmers are responsible for all crops and livestock that are needed for us to survive. Farmers work hard every day to keep plenty of crops and animal products in the market.

Farmers work under the umbrella of agriculture, producing a variety of food products for human and animal consumption. There are several kinds of farmers ranging from farmers who raise animals to farmers who grow crops.

There is a quote that is very accurate when describing a farmer - "Farmers farm for the love of farming. They love to watch and nurture the growth of plants.

They love to live in the presence of animals. They love to work outdoors. They love the weather, maybe even when it is making them miserable." - Wendell Berry.

A farmer has various responsibilities within their particular field. Whether it is the purchasing and planting of seeds on a cash crop farm, the purchasing of quality breeding stock on an animal farm, or the diet and care of a specific type of livestock on an animal production farm, a farmer needs to have a wide knowledge base of the agricultural industry as a whole.

Besides the general knowledge of planting dates, breeding cycles and harvesting periods, a farmer often needs a good working knowledge of mechanics in order to keep their equipment running.



A farmer has to have strong knowledge of the regulations of the Food and Drug Administration, state agencies, and local government, as there are many regulations placed on the agricultural industry.

There are various types of farmers, including:

Organic Farmer - produces fruits,

vegetables, grains, or livestock without the use of pesticides, herbicides, or chemical fertilizers

Grain and Forage Crop Farmer - grows grains such as wheat, barley, canola, oats, rye, flax, peas and specialty crops or forage crops

Dairy Farmer - owns or manages a farm where cows are raised for the production of milk

and other dairy products

Poultry Farmer - raises domesticated birds such as geese, ducks, turkeys or chickens

Rancher - raises livestock such as cattle or sheep, or less common livestock such as elk, bison, ostrich, emu or alpacas

Beekeeper - keeps honey bees, and produces honey,

pollen, royal jelly and beeswax

Vermiculturist - breeds worms and uses the worms to convert waste products such as uneaten food, feces, grass clippings, and spoiled fruit and vegetables into healthy, nutrient-rich soil and organic fertilizer

Farmers have distinct personalities. They tend to be enterprising individuals, which means they're adventurous, ambitious, assertive, extroverted, energetic, enthusiastic, confident, and optimistic.

Farmers earn an average hourly wage of \$11.21. Salaries typically start from \$9.85 per hour and go up to \$16.01 per hour. (Considering the number of hours a farmer works).

Please find a way to show your appreciation of our American Farmers.



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Kentucky Agriculture Finance Corp. announces more than \$4.1M in loans

Financing bolsters beef, forage, poultry, and grain farmers across the Commonwealth

FRANKFORT – The Kentucky Agricultural Finance Corp. (KAFC) approved 19 agricultural loans totaling \$4,112,135 for projects across the Commonwealth today at its monthly board meeting.

Agricultural Infrastructure Loan Program (AILP)
Six Agricultural

Infrastructure loans totaling up to \$1,380,000 were approved. Loan recipients were in Caldwell (\$250,000), Graves (\$250,000 and \$250,000), Trigg (\$130,000), and Webster (\$250,000 and \$250,000) counties.

KAFC participates with lenders to provide financing to producers making capital expenditures

for agricultural projects through the AILP. Eligible projects include permanent farm structures with attached equipment that improves the profitability of farming operations. Producers may be eligible for up to \$250,000 not to exceed 50 percent of the project.

Beginning Farmer

Loan Program (BFLP)

Thirteen Beginning Farmer loans totaling up to \$2,732,135 were approved. Loan recipients were in Breckinridge (\$90,750 and \$202,400), Caldwell (\$125,000), Fleming (\$250,000), Graves (\$250,000), Green (\$250,000), Hickman (\$249,280), Mercer (\$152,000 and \$250,000), Ohio (\$250,000 and

\$250,000), Washington (\$162,705), and Woodford (\$250,000) counties.

The BFLP is designed to assist individuals with some farming experience who desire to develop, expand, or buy into a farming operation. Beginning farmers may qualify for financing to purchase livestock, equipment, or agriculture

facilities; to secure permanent working capital; for the purchase of farm real estate; or to invest in a partnership or LLC.

For more information on KAFC participation loans, contact your lender or Bill McCloskey at Kentucky Office of Agricultural Policy at (502) 382-6093 or email kafc@ky.gov.

Steps farmers can take to combat climate change

Climate change is a challenge the world must confront together. Though people from all walks of life and in all corners of the world will be affected by rising global temperatures and the ripple effects of such increases, the impact of climate change on the agricultural sector figures to be especially significant.

Farmers have been on the front lines in the fight against climate change for decades. When storms strike and climate patterns shift, farmers must find ways to adapt or potentially lose their livelihoods. Experts warn that the planet is warming at a pace that could prove devastating. For example, one assessment conducted under the World Climate Research Programme and published in 2020 in the Reviews of Geophysics concluded that the warming range of the planet will be between 2.6°C and 3.9°C.

Everyone must do their part in an effort to avoid the more drastic outcomes associated with climate change. Farmers can explore these ways to combat climate change as they look to protect their personal and financial futures.

• Curtail methane emissions. The European Environment Agency

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(Live viewing Days 12/6 and 12/13 at 7110 Community Drive, Florence IN 47020 (Markland Center Building 9am - 6pm EST))

Year End Farm Equipment AUCTION

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2025 @ 8AM (CST)

LOCATION: 1010 Skyline Drive, Hopkinsville, KY
roederauctioncompany.com

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2020 JOHN DEERE 6155R
\$155,000

2020 JD 6155R TRACTOR, IVT TRANS, C/H/A, MFWD, 540/1000 PTO, 3 SCV, 3PT WITH TOP LINK, 683 HOURS, 420/80R46 REAR DUALS, 380/85R30 FRONT TIRES, SN 1L06155RHL P960224



2012 JOHN DEERE 9460R
\$139,500

2012 JOHN DEERE 9460R TRACTOR, 4WD, 4216 HRS, 800/70R38 DUALS, 5 SCV, 18 SPEED POWERSHIFT, S/N 1RW9460RKCP004029



2024 JOHN DEERE 5120M
\$102,500

MFWD, C/H/A, 7.4 HRS, JD 540M LOADER W/ BUCKET, 380/85R24 FRONT TIRES, 460/85R34 REAR TIRES, 3 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, 16 SPEED POWER QUAD, LHR, S/N 1PY5120MKRB000767, *BASIC WARRANTY TIL 12/2026



2018 JOHN DEERE 6155R
\$97,500

MFWD, C/H/A, 2748 HRS, 380/85R28 FRONT TIRES, 460/85R38 REAR TIRES, 110" AXLES, RACK & PINION REAR AXLES, 3 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, 20 SPEED POWER QUAD, LHR, 4100 PROCESSOR, ATR, S/N 1RW6155RCJA033329



2012 JOHN DEERE 7215R
\$97,500

MFWD, 4528 HRS, 420/30 FRONT TIRES, 480/46 REAR DUALS, 4 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, 20 SPEED POWER QUAD, 43 GPM HYD PUMP, 15,000# HITCH, S/N 1RW7215RECA007261



2009 JOHN DEERE 8330
\$86,000

2009 JOHN DEERE 8330 TRACTOR, 7010 HRS, 480/46 REAR DUALS, 3 SCV, 1000 PTO, 18 SPEED POWERSHIFT, ATR, S/N RW8330P047376



2004 JOHN DEERE 8120
\$75,500

MFWD, 6542 HRS, 420/90R30 FRONT TIRES, 480/80R46 REAR DUALS, 4 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, POWERSHIFT TRANSMISSION, S/N RW8120P031064



2004 JOHN DEERE 8120
\$65,500

MFWD, 8351 HRS, 420/85R30 FRONT TIRES, 520/85R42 REAR DUALS, 4 SCV, 1000 PTO, QUICK HITCH, POWERSHIFT TRANSMISSION, S/N RW8120P027273



2023 JOHN DEERE 5075E
\$56,500

MFWD, C/H/A, 142 HRS, 11.2-24 FRONT TIRES, 16.9-30 REAR TIRES, JD 520M LOADER W/ BUCKET, 2 SCV, 540 PTO, 12 SPEED LHR, S/N 1PY5075EVPP423676



1994 CASE IH 7220
\$54,500

2WD, C/H/A, 5467 HRS, 14L-16.1 FRONT TIRES, 460/85R42 REAR DUALS, 3 SCV, 540/1000 PTO, 19 SPEED TRANSMISSION, S/N JJA0055595



KUBOTA L6060HSTC
\$45,000

KUBOTA L6060 HSTC TRACTOR, MFWD, C/H/A, 207 HRS, 9.5-16 FRONT TIRES, 14.9-26 REAR TIRES, KUBOTA LA1055 LOADER W/ BUCKET, 1 SCV, 540 PTO, S/N KBUL5FHCLM8B50714



JOHN DEERE 4960
\$44,500

JOHN DEERE 4960 TRACTOR, MFWD, C/H/A, 8468 HRS, 18.4-26 FRONT TIRES, 520/42 REAR DUALS, 3 SCV, 1000 PTO, 15 SPEED POWERSHIFT

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One Health-focused summit highlights Purdue's leadership in advancing human, plant and animal health



Purdue President Mung Chiang, at center, joined industry leaders in human, animal and plant health — including Corteva Inc. CEO Chuck Magro, at left, and Elanco CEO Jeff Simmons — to highlight how Purdue is advancing the One Health initiative at Thursday's (Nov. 13) BioCrossroads Life Sciences Summit at Elanco headquarters in Indianapolis

Purdue University photo/John Underwood

Purdue University leaders on Thursday (Nov. 13) joined more than 250 high-level representatives and experts from industry, academia, government and nonprofits for the BioCrossroads Life Sciences Summit to advance dialogue around Purdue's growing leadership in the One Health movement.

Held at Elanco's global headquarters in the emerging One Health Innovation District in Indianapolis, and presented in partnership with AgriNovus Indiana, the summit convened state and national thought leaders to discuss how Purdue's strengths in medicine discovery and delivery, animal health and plant science can advance health and the one-health economy.

From comparative oncology to crop genetic science and advanced chemistry,

discussions focused on where Purdue can make the greatest impact. Purdue President Mung Chiang underscored the importance of global health leadership and reaffirmed the university's commitment to uniting research and education across human, animal and plant health through its One Health and Indianapolis initiatives — two of Purdue's four strategic initiatives.

"Purdue is excited to partner with Elanco at the One Health Innovation District, a key success for both our One Health and Indianapolis initiatives," Chiang said. "Working also with companies such as Eli Lilly and Corteva Agriscience, our outstanding faculty and students advance the intersection of human, animal and plant health."

Panel discussions examined ways Purdue can:

- Align its strengths to address specific, high-impact One Health challenges
- Advance public health, environmental resilience and supply chain security
- Accelerate the vision for the One Health Innovation District
- Expand its global leadership in life sciences

Dan DeLaurentis, Purdue's executive vice president for research and the Bruce Reese Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics, was also a summit panelist and discussed how the university is working to attract top researchers, train students and invest in infrastructure to support industry needs.

Other Purdue speakers included:

- Sylvie Brouder — Wickersham Chair of Excellence in Agricultural Research; director, Purdue Center for Global Food Security
- Heather Eicher-Miller — professor of

see **SUMMIT**, page A11

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SUMMIT,
from page A10

planetary sciences
U.S. Sen. Todd
Young of Indiana and
Ilya Yuffa, executive
vice president of Eli
Lilly and Company
and president of Lilly
USA and global
customer capabilities,
also participated in a
fireside chat to discuss
the state's pivotal role
in reshoring the
nation's animal, plant
and human health
supply chain. The
summit concluded
with remarks from
Vince Wong,
BioCrossroads
president and CEO,
who presented Young
with the August
Watanabe Life
Sciences Champion of
the Year Award.

nutrition science
Elizabeth Topp
— Maxine Spencer
Nichols Professor in
Chemical
Engineering; chief
science officer,
National Institute for
Bioprocessing
Research and
Training (NIBRT);
director, William D.
and Sherry L. Young
Institute for Advanced
Manufacturing of
Pharmaceuticals
Moderator: Lucy
Flesch — Frederick L.
Hovde Dean of the
College of Science;
professor of earth,
atmospheric, and

STEPS,
from page A7

first increment of added
fertilizer/nutrients, with
each additional
increment thereafter
resulting in lower
efficiency. Making every
effort to make the most of
initial applications can
save farmers money and
reduce the impact on the
environment.
• Participate in and
help promote local
farmers markets.
Foodwise notes that food
in the United States
travels an average of
1,500 miles before it ends
up on consumers' plates.
Transporting foods that
far contributes to more
greenhouse gas
emissions. Farmers who
can sell to local farmers
markets can help reduce
such emissions.
Promoting those efforts
via social media pages or
other public platforms
can increase consumer
awareness of the
availability of fresh,
locally grown foods.
The challenges posed
by climate change are
not going away. Farmers
can take various steps to
overcome those
challenges.

notes that capturing
methane from manure is
one way for farmers to
reduce agriculture-
related greenhouse gas
emissions. The
California Climate &
Agriculture Networks
notes that more than half
of the state's agricultural
emissions come from
livestock in the form of
methane. The nonprofit
organization Foodwise
reports that holistic,
pasture-based livestock
management utilizing
practices like rotational
grazing can help mitigate
methane emissions from
livestock.
• Emphasize efficient
use of fertilizers. The
EEA recommends
efficient use of fertilizers
as another means to
reduce agricultural
greenhouse gas
emissions. The National
Institute of Food and
Agriculture at the U.S.
Department of
Agriculture notes that
the greatest efficiency
typically comes from the

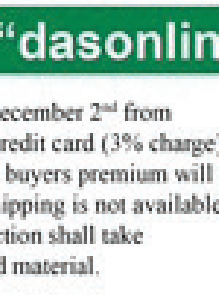
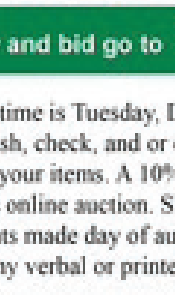
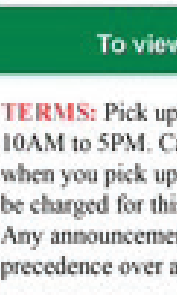
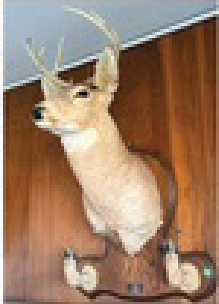
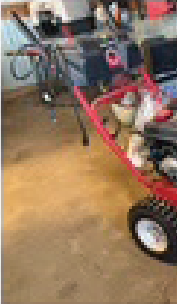
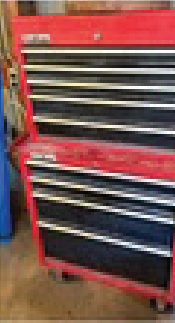
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The many ways a thriving agriculture sector is beneficial



Inflation has been a hot topic for several years running. Many businesses have been forced to raise their prices in an effort to combat a host of variables, including materials costs, labor shortages and political uncertainty across the globe.

That’s been hard on consumers’ and business owners’ pocketbooks, and precisely when inflation will simmer down remains a mystery.

Though the cost of many goods and services has skyrocketed in recent years, discussions about inflation often focus on the rising cost of groceries. According to USDA Economic Research, food prices in the United States rose 23.6 percent between 2020 and 2024.

That’s led many people to cut back on luxuries like dining out. As people dine out less, they may be looking to expand their culinary horizons at home, and that goal is best achieved when the

agricultural sector is put in position to meet consumer demands. Indeed, that link is just one of the many ways that a thriving agricultural sector benefits everyone.

• A strong agricultural sector greatly benefits the economy. Job creation is widely cited as a pathway to economic recovery, and a well-supported agricultural sector can create millions of jobs. The agricultural tech firm Sabanto estimates 2025 began with around 2.4 million unfilled jobs within the agricultural sector. A 2022 report from Maryville University indicated the agricultural sector contributes \$7 trillion to the U.S. economy, employing as much as 10.3 percent of the nation’s workers. The link between a thriving agricultural sector and a strong economy is undeniable, making it a worthy endeavor to support policies that prioritize agriculture.

• A thriving farm is a productive farm. Modern grocery stores offer an abundance of healthy foods, and many of those foods are grown on farms. The Farm Bureau reports that a single acre of land can grow various crops, producing as much as 50,000

strawberries or just under 2,800 bushels of wheat. Consumers who enjoy visiting grocery stores that offer an array of fresh, nutritious foods, including fruits and vegetables, should know that those options are only available when a thriving agricultural sector is prioritized.

• Farms are vital to production of other products as well. Maryville University notes a thriving agricultural sector is involved in more than just food production. IFP Energies notes that bio-based chemistry uses raw materials derived from biomass, such as plants like wheat, corn and potatoes, to produce an array of products, including inks, dyes and detergents. So it’s not just the foods people eat that can be traced to a thriving agricultural sector. Bio-based chemistry also is considered green because it promotes a reduction of the environmental impact of industrial production.

There’s no shortage of reasons to support a thriving agricultural sector. Indeed, consumers from all walks of life benefit in myriad ways when the success of the agricultural sector is prioritized.

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For more info about the State Aid to Local Agricultural Fairs Program, go to kyagr.com/marketing/county-fair-program.html.



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Fast facts about 4-H

Young people often are encouraged to participate in activities that can strengthen their minds and bodies and benefit their communities. Various organizations encourage children to become learners and leaders, including the youth development program 4-H.

What is 4-H?
This is America's largest youth development organization with a focus on essential life skills and leadership abilities. The four "Hs" in the program's name refer to missions involving head, heart, hands, and health.

Who started 4-H?
The organization began in Iowa, where it was founded by school superintendent Oscar Benson. Benson was a leader in teaching demonstrations, and wanted to share this method of learning with young people as much as possible. In

1909, he was using a three-leaf clover pin to represent head, heart and hands as an achievement award for farm boys and girls. Benson later worked with the Office of Farm Management in the U.S. Department of Agriculture and brought his clover. Benson ultimately engineered the first state college-federal agreement for the promotion of rural youth club work.

Is 4-H just for farming communities?
While 4-H was originally conceived to introduce youth to agricultural work, it is not exclusively an agricultural organization. 4-H continues to offer animal and plant science projects, but also has expanded to offer a wide range of programs in areas like arts and crafts, civic engagement, STEM, and healthy living. 4-H now reaches youth in urban, suburban and rural communities



across the country. Through the website www.4-h.org, interested parties can find their own local 4-H offices to get started. The program is delivered by Cooperative Extension, which is a community of more than 100 public universities across the nation.

Who is eligible for 4-H?
The program is geared to youth from kindergarten to one year out of high school (K-13). Members enroll in projects that match their ages and interests. Adult mentors provide guidance and support to youth along the way.

What benefits come from 4-H participation?
The organization says their life-changing programs help kids and teens learn skills and abilities to be resilient, adaptable and ready for work and life. According to the program, 4-Hers are more likely to feel competent, make

healthy choices, contribute positively to their communities, and feel positive about their well-being. In addition to participation in youth sports, scouting and other organizations, children and teens can get involved with 4-H to learn handy skills that can benefit them throughout their lives.



Farmer Blessing

May you have perseverance and wisdom as you plan and plant.

May your body and soul be strengthened as you work long hours.

May you know how grateful we are for the way your work blesses our nation.



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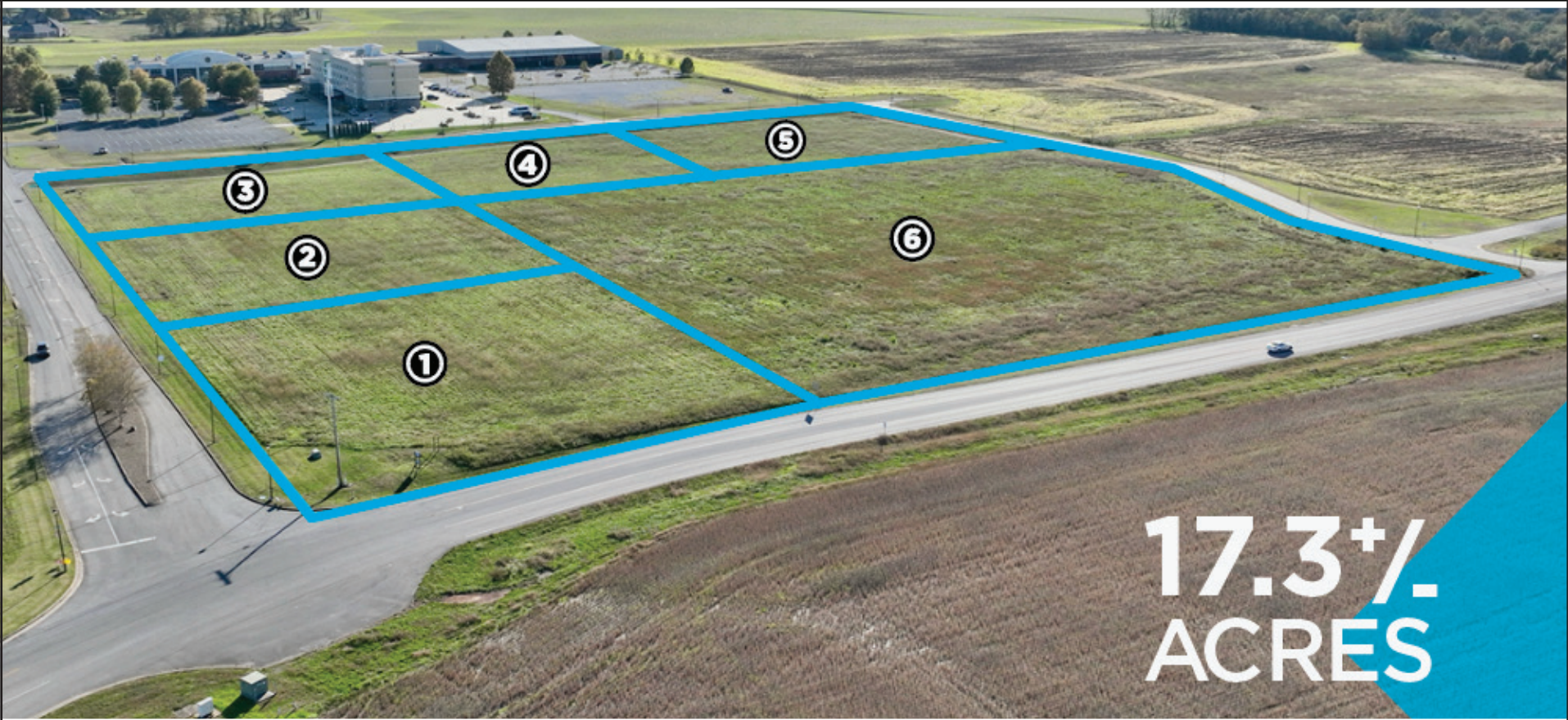
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Kentucky-specific winter farming tips

With winter fast approaching, here are some Kentucky-specific winter farming tips to help protect crops, livestock, and soil during our cold, often wet winters:

Crop & Field Management

1. Plant the Right Cover Crops

Kentucky winters are unpredictable—cold snaps, warm spells, and plenty of moisture. Good cover crops help protect soil and boost spring yields.

Best options for KY:

Cereal rye – very hardy, great for erosion control

Winter wheat – good for grazing and soil protection

Crimson clover or hairy vetch – adds nitrogen

Radishes/turnips (if planted early fall) – helps break up compaction

2. Soil Testing & Lime Application

Winter is ideal for lime since it takes months to adjust pH.

Get soil samples done before the ground freezes.

Apply lime on fields that will be planted with corn or vegetables in spring.

3. Manage Field Drainage

Kentucky often deals with soggy winters.

Clean drainage ditches and tile outlets

Repair erosion channels

Consider adding grassed waterways

Vegetable & Garden Production

4. Extend Growing with High Tunnels

Kentucky is one of the leading states for high-tunnel vegetable production.



Grow hardy winter crops: spinach, kale, carrots, lettuce, bok choy

Add low-tunnel row covers inside high tunnels for extra cold protection

Vent on warm days to prevent disease buildup

5. Mulch Perennial Beds

For garlic, berries, asparagus, fruit trees: Add straw or wood chips after the first freeze

Protects roots from freeze-thaw cycles common in KY

Livestock Care
6. Winter Feeding Strategy

Unpredictable winter weather means forage quality varies.

Test hay for protein and energy

Supplement with grain or tubs if needed

Keep hay dry—use rings, feeders, or tarps

7. Provide Windbreaks & Shelter

Kentucky wind chills can get severe.

Permanent sheds or natural windbreaks (tree lines, hedges)

Portable windbreak panels for cattle

8. Water Supply Management

Frozen water sources = lost time and animal stress.

Use heated troughs or de-icers

Check lines daily for freezes

Keep hydrants insulated

Small Farm & Homestead Tips
9. Protect Chickens & Goats

Deep-litter method for warmth and insulation

Ensure good ventilation to prevent moisture buildup

Use heated waterers to avoid freezing

10. Schedule Winter Maintenance

Winter downtime is perfect for:

Equipment repair

Fence tightening

Building/repairing raised beds

Planning crop rotations

Kentucky-Specific Weather Considerations

Kentucky winters often bring:

Freeze–thaw cycles → soil movement & heaving

Heavy rainfall — erosion risk

Sudden temperature drops — livestock stress

Late frosts — protect early spring seedlings

Plan with flexibility—January can feel like April, and March can feel like January.

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FARMERS' Quarterly

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How to build stronger rural communities

Small towns and rural communities may not always get the attention they deserve, and it's easy for their needs to be eclipsed by larger cities. Small town needs are ever-changing and unique to their respective locations.

While some rural communities have experienced a downward trend between 2010 and 2020, the numbers are complex and not universally applicable. Still, many of these areas can use help, as they are facing steep population declines, according to FWD.us. This bipartisan political organization says in the last 20 years departures from rural counties outweighed new arrivals by 700,000 people.

Empowering rural communities and helping them grow comes down to some key areas of focus.

- Create a walkable Main Street. Planning boards can carefully consider where well-thought-out development should go. While it's important to maintain the integrity of the rural



community without too much building, having a walkable and attractive town center where businesses can thrive is key. Families can live close by to daily destinations, and this may encourage more people to relocate to or stay in these areas, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

- Help for farmers. Government officials need to hear more about the challenges farmers face. Tom Vilsack, former Iowa governor and the

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture during the Obama and Biden administrations, says programs like the Climate Smart Commodities Program can help farmers. This program pays farmers a premium for using sustainable agriculture tools, or practices that make use of innovative farm products that produce renewable energy. Farms that work efficiently and lower the burden of labor on farmers are a boon for rural communities. U.S. Depart-

ment of Agriculture statistics indicate the majority of farmers in the United States have to supplement their incomes with off-farm jobs because smaller farms simply can't keep up to make ends meet. Fighting for policies that keep more money going to small farms can strengthen rural communities.

- Improve infrastructure and resources. Rural communities need access to the right resources in order to thrive. Improving

access to high-speed internet, for example, can bring new business and educational initiatives to rural areas and small towns. Lenders can be more receptive to local entrepreneurs to help stimulate economic growth and job creation in these communities, according to the professional development group StrengthenND. Priority also should be given to improving roadways so residents can safely get to and from homes, stores and businesses.

- Protect open spaces. Rural communities can rally to protect the landscape and help preserve open spaces. Focus also should be placed on providing places for recreation, and not only for local residents. Such features can make smaller towns more appealing to tourists, which in turn can increase investments in the local economy.

Small towns and rural communities can use certain strategies to foster growth and sustainability.

University of Kentucky research collaboration links key corn protein to stronger, longer-lasting seed



UK Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment researchers are helping lead the way to find how a single genetic change helps protect corn seeds during storage.
Photo by Matt Barton

By Jordan Strickler

Lexington, Ky.— A new international study co-led by the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment shows how a single genetic change helps protect corn seeds during storage. This offers plant breeders a clear target for developing varieties that stay vigorous longer and waste fewer seeds.

The research, published in The Plant Cell, focuses on a damaged protein repair enzyme called ZmPIMT1. The study showed how natural changes in the regulatory region of the gene encoding the enzyme — the DNA “on/off” region that controls how much of the enzyme’s RNA, and then protein, is made — affect seed aging tolerance in corn. The team found that

some corn lines carry a version of this region that turns ZmPIMT1 on more strongly, helping seeds better survive the stress of long-term storage and harsh conditions. For Bruce Downie, professor in the Department of Horticulture at Martin-Gatton CAFE and a leading member of UK’s seed biology group, the work

see **CORN**
page B5

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2008 INTERNATIONAL PAYSTAR 5600, Good truck, runs excellent, 246,781 miles, 6x6, transfer case, nice bed, double frame, rear differential lock, air seat, air gate. Salvage title due to cab fire, cab has been replaced.
Stk. #08PAY6X6TADUMP **\$45,000**



2017 FREIGHTLINER 114SD, Nice truck, runs excellent, 407,184 miles, air seat, double frame, full locking rears, nice ox bed, air gate, electric tarp, cruise, 410 HP, Tuffrac suspension, A/C, DD13 engine, tandem rear axles.
Stk. #17SD407TADUMP **\$60,000**



2012 PETERBILT 348, Nice truck, runs perfect, clean truck, air gate, electric tarp, air seat, differential lock, double frame, dual steerable air lift axles, new bed, 504,804 miles, 370 HP.
Stk. #12PETE504QUADDUMP **\$65,000**



2006 MACK GRANITE CV713, Nice truck, runs excellent, air seat, air brakes, double frame, air gate, electric tarp, differential lock, nice bed, 512,478 miles, 380 HP, 16 ft body length, tarp.
Stk. #06CV512TADUMP **\$40,000**



2009 PETERBILT 340, Good truck, low miles 94,038, nice hard steel bed, air gate, tarp, full locking rears, air seat, double frame, tilt/tele, 330 HP, PACCAR engine, 8LL speeds, Air Trac suspension
Stk. #09PETE94TADUMP **\$44,000**



2020 INTERNATIONAL LT, Very nice truck, fleet maintained, excellent shape, runs and drives perfect, smart steering wheel, power windows, power mirrors, heated mirrors, dump valve, diff lock, air seat, 80/100 fuel tanks.
Stk. #20LT554TADC **\$17,000**



2018 PETERBILT 579, Good truck, runs and drives excellent, fleet maintained, air seat, very nice truck, power windows, power mirrors, heated mirrors, differential lock, dump valve, A/S 5th, cruise, tilt/tele, 590,561 miles.
Stk. #18MX590579DC **\$22,000**



2020 KENWORTH T680, Very nice truck, fleet maintained, no rust/southern ran truck, air seat, air brakes, tilt/tele, power windows, power mirrors, heated mirrors, super nice truck, 455 HP, 535,821 miles.
Stk. #20MX535T680DC **\$28,000**



2010 INTERNATIONAL LONESTAR, Very nice truck, runs excellent, power windows, power door locks, sliding fifth wheel, cruise control, engine brake, dump valve, 11R24.5 rubber, lots of chrome, 485 HP.
Stk. #10ISX642LONEDC **\$35,000**



2012 VOLVO VNL641300, Starts, runs, drives, air seat, power windows, power mirrors, heated mirrors, tilt/tele, 405 HP, differential lock, 10 speed, Eaton-Fuller transmission, air ride suspension.
Stk. #12D13747VNLDC **\$9,000**



2021 VOLVO VNR641300, Very nice truck, fleet maintained, runs excellent, air seat, tilt/tele, differential lock, dump valve, power windows, power door locks, power mirrors, heated mirrors, cruise control, auto transmission.
Stk. #21AV548VNRDC **\$25,000**



2019 FREIGHTLINER CASCADIA 126, Very nice truck, runs excellent, clean, air seat, air brakes, fleet maintained, differential lock, dump valve, power windows, power mirrors, A/S 5th, 450 HP, air ride suspension.
Stk. #19DET453CASDC **\$23,000**



2022 VOLVO VNR641300, Very nice truck, fleet maintained, runs excellent, air seat, tilt/tele, differential lock, dump valve, power windows, power door locks, power mirrors, heated mirrors, cruise control.
Stk. #22AV498VNRDC **\$30,000**



1996 PETERBILT 379, Good truck, runs excellent, air seat, dual exhaust, sliding 5th wheel, differential lock, dump valve, clean truck, 475 HP, 10 speed, air ride suspension, Caterpillar engine 3406E.
Stk. #96CAT379DC **\$25,000**



2017 MACK PINNACLE CXU613, Good southern ran truck, not rusty, runs and drives excellent, air seat, air brakes, differential lock, dump valve, power windows, power mirrors, heated mirrors, tilt/tele, well maintained truck.
Stk. #25ATRO397DUMP **\$22,000**



2025 ATRO 34 FT X 102 IN, New 2025 34 ft dump trailer, high lift gate, built with air hard ox steel, 13,337 empty weight, external cylinder/no doghouse for easier dumping capabilities, front ladder, led lights. 12% PET TBP
Stk. #25ATRO397DUMP **\$35,000**



2016 TRAILSTAR 39 FT, Good trailer, 2 speed landing gear, 2 way gate, dump valve, two way gate, two speed landing gear, all steel wheels, fixed axle type, 80,000 lb. gross vehicle weight.
Stk. #16TSTAR397DUMP **\$22,000**



2001 TRAVIS 37 FT, Nice trailer, good shape, roll tarp, air gate, air ride suspension, all steel wheels, tandem rear axles, fixed axle, aluminum, two speed landing gear.
Stk. #01TRAV705DUMP **\$15,000**



2006 LUFKIN 24 FT, Good trailer, good shape, good tires, tarp, air gate, front ladder, frameless frame type, all steel wheels, tandem rear axles, center point suspension, tandem rear axles.
Stk. #06LUF24DUMP **\$15,000**



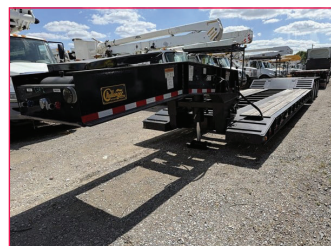
2015 JET 42 FT, Nice trailer, excellent shape, good roll tarp, good doors, nice wagon, two speed landing gear, two hoppers, front and rear ladders, air ride suspension, aluminum wheels.
Stk. #15JET844HOPPER **\$22,000**



2020 TIMPTE 40 FT X 96 IN, Nice hopper trailer, AG hoppers, good tires, roll tarp, dump valve, 72 inch sides, two hoppers, manual hopper operation, two speed landing gear, front and rear ladders, catwalk.
Stk. #20TIM40HOPPER **\$32,000**



2013 CEI PACER 40 FT, Nice trailer, good augers, good tires, excellent shape, tandem rear axles, fixed axle, aluminum, air ride suspension, aluminum wheels.
Stk. #13PACEFEED **\$25,000**



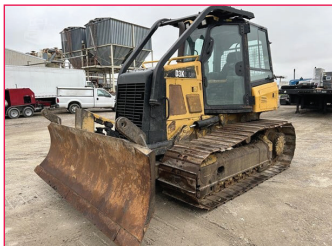
2025 WITZCO CHALLENGER 49 FT X 102 IN, New 52 ton low boy trailer, 23 ft well, chain tie downs, D-rings, Honda pony engine, chain/binder storage, ground bearing detach, factory warranty, 12% FET tax TBP with purchase.
Stk. #25WIT193RG52 **\$46,000**



1973 ROGERS 42 FT, Nice trailer, good tires, well built, 20 ft well, requires wet kit to detach, ground bearing detach, 35 ton payload capacity, tie downs, wood floor, all steel wheels, tandem rear axles, 85,100 GVW.
Stk. #73ROG18BLOW **\$13,000**



2009 UTILITY 48 FT X 102 IN, Good trailer, good shape, closed tandem, steel composition, air ride suspension, wood floor, tandem rear axles, fixed neck, spread axle.
Stk. #09UTIL603FLAT **7,000**



2015 CATERPILLAR D3K2 LGP, Nice machine, runs and operates excellent, clean cab, tight blade, ROPS, joystick operator control, powershift transmission, heat and A/C
Stk. #15CATD3KDOZ **\$43,000**



2006 CATERPILLAR DSN XL, New set of tracks and rails included in price, nice machine, runs and operates excellent, three speed, powershift transmission, ROPS, lever operator controls, cloth seat material.
Stk. #06CATD5NDOZ **\$42,000**



2016 CATERPILLAR D3K2 LGP, Machine runs and operates excellent, screen on dash not working, gauges work. Was told 4500 h ours but have no record due to dash screen not working, ROPS, open interior, joystick operator.
Stk. #16CATD3KDOZ **\$42,000**



2011 DEERE 310J, Nice machine, runs and operates excellent, good buckets, good shape, 4x4 works, outriggers, ROPS, excavator style operator controls, 4WD, standard batter type, combo transmission.
Stk. #11JD310HOE **\$30,000**



2016 HYUNDAI ROBEX 140 LC-9A, Good machine, runs and operates excellent, low hours, good air conditioning, standard battery, 3,911 hours, ROPS, enclosed interior.
Stk. #19HYUN140EXC **\$45,000**



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A black and white photograph of a cow's head, looking slightly to the right. The cow has a dark coat and a prominent white blaze on its face. The image is positioned at the bottom of the page, below the text.

Preserving Kentucky's deer: University of Kentucky, Kentucky Fish and Wildlife study Chronic Wasting Disease

University of Kentucky faculty and students are partnering with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and landowners to track deer populations

By Bailey Vandiver

Like thousands of Kentuckians, a team from the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment and the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) is on the lookout for deer. But once caught by researchers, these deer are allowed to return to their Western Kentucky populations — with a GPS collar to help understand movement patterns and predict the potential spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).

CWD is a brain disease that affects deer and other cervids. There is no cure, and the disease is always fatal — though deer can be infected for years and spread the infection through direct contact or environmental contamination before showing symptoms. Affecting neurological function, symptoms include decreased body condition, which is where the name “wasting” comes from, as well as behavioral changes toward people and other deer, confusion or nervousness, and repetitive movements. As of Oct. 29, 2025, KDFWR has confirmed two cases of



A team of UK Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment and Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife researchers capture and release deer in Ballard County, Kentucky, on Friday, Feb. 14, 2025. Photo by Kristopher Chappel

CWD in wild deer in Kentucky, including one in the 2025 hunting season. Tracking how deer move can help researchers understand how CWD might spread, which shapes response plans. Martin-Gatton CAFE Department of Forestry and Natural Resources (FNR) faculty John Cox, professor of wildlife and conservation biology, and Matthew Springer, associate Extension professor of wildlife management, are the co-principal investigators for the UK and KDFWR project. This work is supported by a \$226,000 award from KDFWR. “We’re working to come up with surveillance protocols and management

strategies to help preserve the resource that white-tailed deer are in our state, as well as the potential for public health knowledge with a disease that’s not necessarily an immediate threat but could be in the future,” Springer said.

Studying deer dispersal patterns
Capturing a deer takes planning, patience and — sometimes — a helicopter. Over the course of the two-year study, 120 GPS collars will be deployed. Capture methods include a combination of helicopter net-gunning, clover traps and drop nets to track deer movements. “There’s a lot of patience involved — a lot like hunting,” said Haley Taylor, an FNR graduate student. “Sometimes you get something, sometimes you don’t.” Now a UK graduate research assistant, Taylor began this project, which is her master’s thesis, while working for KDFWR. “I’m originally from Kentucky, and I love it here, and I’ve gotten the privilege to work at every corner of the state,” Taylor said. “The diverse landscape that we have in the state and the ability to do all these different things in one area is amazing.” A team from UK and KDFWR gathered in February in Western Kentucky for a multi-day operation.

During a helicopter capture, the helicopter hovers over a forested area, “rustling” up the deer so researchers can see them. When it’s close enough, the helicopter deploys a “rocket” net that covers the deer. For a drop net capture, the team chooses a location and sets up a net, with a line attached to a trigger pole. Later, on-site researchers use thermal cameras to watch and pull the line when deer move under the net. No matter how the deer is captured, a member of the research team is prepared with a bag that includes a collar, sampling materials and a data sheet. “We’ve done a lot of the work on the front end with the help of our technicians and other students,” said Taylor, who manages the collection and analysis. The researcher follows an immobilization protocol for the deer, including checking vitals and taking a blood sample. Then the researcher puts a thin collar on the deer and releases it back into the population unharmed, with minimal disruption to its normal life. Researchers then track deer movement in relation to varying landscapes and populations, allowing them to study dispersal patterns. Insights from this research help predict both CWD spread and response to weather

events. *A partnership that prepares future professionals*
Through this and other projects with KDFWR, UK undergraduate and graduate students get hands-on experience with professional biologists that complements classroom learning. “Actually seeing it in practice done by the state agency that’s in charge of managing this resource is something that’s really hard to emulate in a classroom,” Springer said. “We’re lucky enough that the state agency recognizes that.” Joe McDermott, now the deer program coordinator for

KDFWR, earned his master’s in forestry from UK. “We’ve got a great partnership with UK, and we’re trying to continue to build on that and get some good work done,” McDermott said. As a manager for more than 10 years, McDermott has hired for many positions. His number one piece of advice for students who want to be biologists or in related roles: Get out and get some experience. “It’s a fun job. I don’t generally hate Mondays,” McDermott said. “But at the same time, it’s a very competitive field, and it’s a pretty intense field. If there’s anything you can do to set yourself apart from others and help you get going, that is going to be beneficial for you.” Thanks to networking and leadership opportunities throughout this project, Taylor said she is ready for what comes next. “I feel extremely prepared,” she said. The CWD project will continue through at least 2027. Find more UK and KDFWR resources about Chronic Wasting Disease at <https://forestry.mgcafe.uky.edu/cwd>.



Members of the UK Martin-Gatton CAFE and KDFWR team study a deer during a helicopter capture in Ballard County, Kentucky, on Friday, Feb. 14, 2025. Photo by Kristopher Chappel

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CORN,
from page B1

speaks directly to a simple reality: modern life runs on seeds.

“Roughly 70% of the human diet comes directly from seeds, and much of the rest depends on animals fed on seeds,” Downie said. “We eat them, wear them as cotton, ferment them into beverages and fuel. If seed lots fail, the costs hit farmers, companies and consumers all the way down the line.”

The study, conducted with in part with professor Tianyong Zhao at Northwest A&F University in China, Zhao’s associate, professor Yumin Zhang, identifies two main versions of the ZmPIMT1 regulatory region across diverse corn lines. One version drives high levels of ZmPIMT1 mRNA production, while another carries a large DNA insertion that lowers expression and, consequently, weakens seed performance under aging stress. Seeds with more ZmPIMT1

protein kept higher germination percentages and produced healthier seedlings after accelerated aging tests, a standard measure of seed storability.

The ZmPIMT1 cellular repair crew

Over time, normal chemical reactions twist and damage proteins inside dry seeds, including proteins needed as soon as the seed takes up water and starts to germinate — the period in which the plant starts to grow again after being quiescent. Instead of discarding those damaged proteins and rebuilding them from scratch, ZmPIMT1 helps flip faulty pieces back into working shape. That saves energy and keeps critical systems running during the first hours of germination.

ZmPIMT1 is a “repair helper” in seeds that watches over a protein called PABP2, which helps choose which stored messages get turned into new proteins when a seed wakes up

and takes in water. If PABP2 is damaged and not fixed, the seed can’t make important proteins fast, so it loses vigor. When a seed has more ZmPIMT1, PABP2 works better, and the seed can handle aging and still sprout strong.

“This reinforces what seed biologists call ‘Job’s rule,’” Downie said. “If you want a seed to survive dry storage, you must protect and repair the machinery of protein synthesis. This work shows that in corn, ZmPIMT1 is a major part of that protection.”

To study the importance of ZmPIMT1, the researchers used multiple approaches. Corn lines with reduced ZmPIMT1 showed poorer performance after aging. Lines with elevated ZmPIMT1 held up better in harsh storage tests.

Downie says the findings can give breeders and seed companies a concrete genetic marker to track as they strive to breed ever more resilient seeds. “Seed producers

invest heavily to deliver hybrids that farmers trust,” Downie said. “If a batch loses vigor in storage, that means lost germination percentages, replanting costs and is frustrating for farmers. Choosing lines with the stronger ZmPIMT1 promoter is a practical step toward seed lots that stay reliable.”

The study also highlights the strength of the cross-disciplinary group of scientists from Martin-Gatton CAFE and the College of Arts and Sciences that make up UK’s seed biology group. They study how seeds develop, survive drying, resist damage and complete germination to produce new plants — work that connects molecular biology to food security, conservation and agricultural resilience.

“Many people never think about what keeps a seed alive from harvest to planting,” Downie said. “Our group does, every day. This collaboration shows

how basic science at the cellular level can point directly to tools that support farmers and safeguard the food supply.”

To learn more about the seed biology group, visit <https://seedbiology.mgcafe.uky.edu/>.

This material is based upon work that is supported by the National Institute of

Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Hatch Project under award number 1019088. Any opinions, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Department of Agriculture.

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What consumers can do to support local farmers

A strong agricultural sector is vital to a healthy economy. Turbulence has affected local and national economies in recent years, and the global economy has endured its own ups and downs during that span.

Though there's no one-size-fits-all solution to economic struggles, consumers can make a difference by supporting local agricultural producers. A 2022 report from researchers at Maryville University indicated roughly 10 percent of workers across the United States were employed in the agricultural sector, which the



report also noted contributes \$7 trillion annually to the national economy. Job creation and economic output are

two major reasons to support local farmers, and consumers can do that in various ways.

• Shop local. The shop local movement can make a notable impact on local economies, and it affects more businesses than brick-and-mortar stores on Main Street. Locally owned restaurants and grocers often source their foods from local farmers, so patronizing such businesses supports those who set up shop on Main Street as well as the farmers who stock their shelves and pantries.

• Purchase seasonal foods. The organization Green America, which offers advice on how environmen-

tal sustainability produces stronger economies, notes that purchasing seasonal foods is a great way to support local farmers. Farmers grow seasonal foods throughout the year to take advantage of natural conditions. Consumers who alter their purchasing habits with the seasons by buying foods that are in-season are likely supporting local agricultural producers. Read product labels to determine where foods are coming from. Non-seasonal foods are likely imported from far away, which has a detrimental impact on the environment and local economies.

• Buy directly from local farms. Most

consumers purchase their food from grocery stores near their homes, but it might be possible to purchase directly from local farmers. Farmers may utilize e-commerce tools to sell directly to local residents, and might even offer delivery services that are more convenient than driving to the nearest chain grocery store.

• Act as an advocate for local producers. Consumers have considerable power, and that power can be exercised in numerous ways. Supporting restaurants that source foods from local farmers is one way consumers can exercise their power. But consumers also can advocate for local farmers by supporting legislation and candidates that prioritize building and supporting a strong local agricultural sector. Consumers also can advocate for local farmers by sharing their experiences via social media, word-of-mouth recommendations or writing positive reviews through aggregators like Google Reviews.

A thriving agricultural sector benefits local economies, and consumers can do much to support the farmers who operate in their towns.



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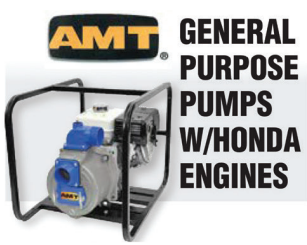
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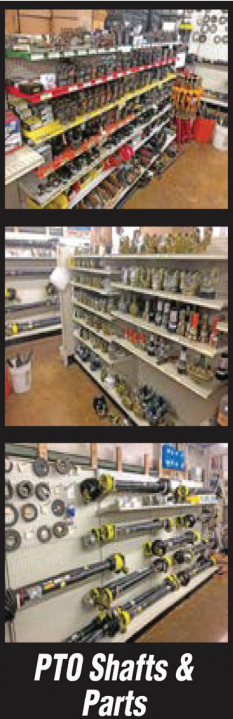
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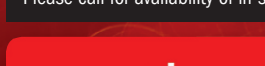
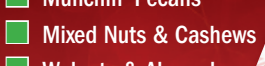
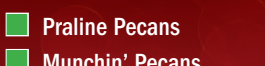
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Using drones to protect Kentucky corn: UK researchers lead precision agriculture study

Plant pathology and agricultural engineering specialists are testing drone-based fungicide applications in the treatment of foliar corn diseases, such as gray leaf spot, at the UK Research and Education Center. Recommendations will be shared during a hands-on workshop in February.

By Jennifer Elwell

PRINCETON, Ky.—The University of Kentucky Research and Education Center aims to optimize drone-based spray systems to improve access to effective management of foliar diseases in Kentucky cornfields.

This multi-departmental effort of Plant Pathology and Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering at the UK Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment has completed year two of its study, supported by the Kentucky Corn Growers Association, and plans to share the results with farmers through a workshop in late February.

According to plant pathology specialist and principal investigator Kiersten Wise, their previous research found that drones are a viable fungicide application option for farmers, especially in smaller fields that cannot be accessed by manned aircraft due to trees or other obstacles. If left untreated, corn foliar diseases can cost Kentucky corn growers nearly \$15 per acre.

“Our 2019 on-farm research conducted with Cooperative Extension agents in

several counties indicated that foliar fungicides applied by a drone at tasseling and early silking can effectively manage gray leaf spot in corn when using recommended spray carrier volumes,” Wise said. “Once we learned that drone fungicide applications can be effective at managing foliar diseases, we had even more questions about how to optimize these applications.”

Improved technology and an increase in demand for commercial drone fungicide applications prompted Wise and precision agriculture specialist Tim Stombaugh to determine how drones compare to traditional high-clearance ground-driven spray equipment and how factors like flight speed and height influence spray coverage and deposition.

“Just in the last couple of years, the amount of corn acres that are sprayed by drones has exploded,” Wise said. “Farmers who may have contracted high-clearance equipment or helicopters and airplanes to apply fungicides are now using drones. And this is not just in Kentucky. It’s a national trend.”

Measuring spray

width and pattern accuracy

Wise said they want to ensure that farmers and commercial drone applicators get the best return on investment for these types of applications.

Stombaugh explained that maximum sprayer swath widths are provided for each type of drone, but there is limited replicated research data on the reliability of these recommendations.

“Our research has shown that the actual swath width, or how much corn the drone covers in each pass, might be different than what the manufacturer says,” Stombaugh said. “Swath width is also going to be based on factors such as application speed and height, and environmental factors such as wind speed, and that’s really important information to convey to farmers and applicators.”

Stombaugh said that while drone applicators may be trying to maximize the swath width of their drone application, they might not be getting spray deposition and coverage across the entire swath. They also found that the spray pattern can shift at wind speeds of 5 miles per hour or below.

“Even at low wind

speeds, we sometimes see the spray deposition on the corn ear leaves can shift, which can also affect efficacy,” Stombaugh said. “Those are some of the things that we’ve looked at and are trying to relay to farmers. Swath width and the pattern accuracy can be affected by a lot of different factors.”

“Preliminary research from our program comparing drone versus ground-applied fungicide applications did indicate that both application methods provided similar levels of disease control and yield response, although disease pressure was low in these trials,” Wise said. “Understanding how drone fungicide application parameters affect disease development will aid farmers in setting up their own drones and improve commercial applicator efficacy by providing optimized settings for application.”

Research trials were established at the UK Research and Education Center in Princeton in 2024 and 2025. To compare the effect of spray application method on treating disease, fungicide was applied to corn plots via drone or ground application

methods, and the spray solution deposited on corn ear leaves was measured.

Wise said that although the ground sprayer application of fungicide resulted in greater spray coverage compared to drone application, a greater amount of the spray solution was deposited onto the corn leaves with the drone application. Both application methods reduced disease where it was present.

Video of the research trial at the UK Research and Education Center in Princeton.

Sharing the results with farmers and commercial applicators

Wise and Stombaugh conclude that fungicide applications by drones are a viable way to apply fungicide in corn, but more research is needed to ensure farmers and applicators are optimizing the applications for disease control and yield benefits.

“We need to continue to research how flight speeds and wind affect pattern distribution and swath width and determine what impact those factors have on fungicide coverage and efficacy,” Wise said.

To bring the initial recommendations for on-farm drone fungicide applications to corn farmers and

commercial applicators, Wise and Stombaugh are working with the Kentucky Agricultural Training School (KATS), a program of the Cooperative Extension Service. A hands-on workshop focused on spray pattern testing is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 26, 2026, in Princeton. Registration information can be found at <https://KATSDronePatternTesting2026.eventbrite.com>.

Wise expressed appreciation to the Kentucky Corn Growers Association for sponsoring the research that gives grain farmers more accessible options for disease control.

“Our partnership with the Kentucky Corn Growers Association has allowed us to research the factors that influence the efficacy of drone-applied fungicides,” Wise said. “Sharing replicated, field-tested results with farmers and applicators is key to helping them better manage important foliar diseases in corn.”

The full research report for “Ground-truthing Drone Fungicide Efficacy” can be found at <https://graincrops.mgcafe.uky.edu/corn>

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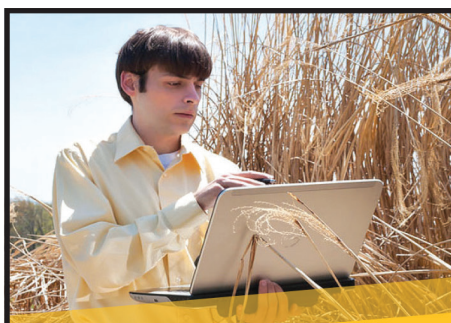
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Farmers cautiously optimistic on China's commitment to purchase U.S. soybeans

The Kentucky Soybean Association (KSA) welcomes the Trump administration's latest actions to prioritize Kentucky and U.S. soybean farmers in the recent announcement regarding U.S. – China trade. Following months of uncertainty around Chinese purchases of U.S. soybeans and other agricultural products, this positive development is encouraging news for Kentucky farm families who rely on open market access to drive soybean demand.

While details are still emerging, over the weekend the White House released a fact sheet indicating that China has agreed to purchase a minimum of 12 million metric tons (MMT) of U.S. soybeans during the last two months of 2025. That translates to about 441 million

bushels, and KSA is pleased to see the number framed as a minimum. While this is a large number, it represents less than half of China's most recent annual purchase levels.

The White House release further indicated China's agreement to purchase at least 25 MMT of U.S. soybeans in each of 2026, 2027, and 2028. China also agreed to resume purchasing U.S. sorghum and hardwood logs. In addition, China will take significant measures to end the flow of fentanyl to the United States. Specifically, China will stop the shipment of certain designated chemicals to North America and strictly control exports of certain other chemicals to all destinations in the world.

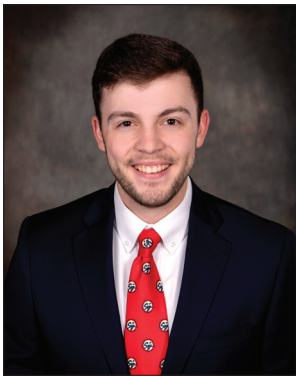
China will suspend all of the retaliatory tariffs that it has

announced since March 4, 2025. This includes tariffs on a vast swath of U.S. agricultural products: chicken, wheat, corn, cotton, sorghum, soybeans, pork, beef, aquatic products, fruits, vegetables, and dairy products.

"We need China as a market, and we are thankful that they're buying U.S. beans again," said KSA President Jonathan Reynolds, who farms near Clinton. "But this purchase, or any one purchase, isn't the magic bullet that will end the farm economy crisis. Purchase commitments don't necessarily mean real sales, like we have seen with China not meeting the purchase minimums they agreed to in the Phase One deal. We have to diversify our markets, and I for one think that keeping more U.S. soybeans here and

increasing our domestic crush for uses in the biofuels market is another step in the right direction."

Biofuels include not only biodiesel, but also renewable diesel and sustainable/ synthetic aviation fuel (SAF), all of which can be made with soybean oil. As airlines continue to work on reducing their carbon footprints, biofuels like SAF are receiving a great deal of attention globally. Strengthening biofuels policy to grow reliable domestic demand for soy is a high priority for the American Soybean Association, as is removing tariffs on inputs to reduce production costs. The high price of inputs, (seed, chemistries, and fertilizer) on top of the price of buying and repairing equipment, on top of land costs whether you own or rent –



Jonathan Reynolds

there are many variables that can affect a farmer's bottom line.

"We knew when we planted our crops that soybeans would likely be on the front lines again, and I think most of us knew it would be a rough year," Reynolds said. "No farmer I know wants to make his payments by getting a check from the government – we all want to make our money fair and square. But when the crop we grow is being used as a tool in a much larger battle to correct trade

imbalances, we don't really have much of a choice."

Looking ahead, KSA continues to work with the Administration and Kentucky's congressional delegation to ensure that these positive developments can lead to lasting market stability and stronger opportunities for Kentucky's soybean growers. This includes growing domestic demand by finalizing the EPA's 2026 Renewable Fuel Obligations, diversifying international demand through new trade partnerships, and more.

"We appreciate the Administration's work to rectify the trade situation and are looking forward to having harvest 2025 wrapped up so that we can turn our attention to a better 2026 crop and marketing year," Reynolds concluded.

AAA: It's the peak time of year for deer collisions

The average insurance damage claim for a deer collision is on the rise

Cooler weather and shorter days mean more deer are now gracing Kentucky's roadways. The number of deer-vehicle collisions increases during October and peaks in November and December. With insurance claim expenses for deer-damaged vehicles on the rise, AAA East Central cautions motorists to be especially vigilant on the road to avoid costly and potentially dangerous crashes.

"More collisions between vehicles and deer occur now than any other time of the year," says Jonathon King, vice president of Insurance sales, AAA East Central. "One of our top claims as winter approaches is for vehicles that have been totaled from hitting animals, and the costs can be staggering."

In 2024, there were more than 3,406 deer-related crashes in Kentucky, according to data from the Kentucky Office of Highway

Safety. That's up 180 from 2023 and the most reported in the last five years. Those crashes resulted in six fatalities and 22 serious injuries. Moreover, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, there are about 1 million car accidents with deer each year that kill 200 Americans, cause more than 10,000 personal injuries, and result in \$1 billion in vehicle damage.

AAA's Recommendation: Check Your Coverage.

AAA Insurance reports that its average deer-related claim in the region is about \$5,600, though costs can be much higher depending on the damage to a vehicle.

Collision coverage pays for damage to a vehicle that results from a collision with an object (e.g., a telephone pole, a guard rail, a mailbox), or because of flipping over. AAA East Central recommends motorists

opt-in for comprehensive coverage, which is for damage to vehicles covered by disasters "other than collisions" (in this case, contact with animals).

"While adding comprehensive coverage may add a small amount to your premium, it could save you money down the road," continued King.

To help prevent a crash or to reduce damage from an animal collision, AAA suggests motorists:

- Pay attention to road signs. Yellow, diamond-shaped signs with an image of a deer indicate areas with high levels of deer activity.
- Keep focused on the road. Ditching distractions is one of the easiest ways to be ready if a deer comes out of nowhere.
- Be especially attentive in early morning and evening hours. Many animals, especially deer, are most active from 5-8 a.m. and 5-8 p.m., prime



commuting times for many.

- Use high beams when there's no oncoming traffic. Animals can be spotted sooner and the light reflecting off their eyes will often reveal their location.
- Slow down and watch for other deer to appear. Deer rarely travel alone, so if there is one, more are likely nearby.
- Resist the urge to swerve. Keep both hands firmly on the wheel and don't change lanes. Swerving away from animals can confuse them so they don't know which way to run. It can also put motorists in the path of oncoming vehicles or

cause the vehicle to crash into something.

- If the crash is imminent take your foot off the brake. During hard braking, the front end of a vehicle is pulled downward which can cause the animal to travel up over the hood towards the windshield. Letting off the brake can protect motorists from windshield strikes because the animal is more likely to be pushed to one side of the vehicle or over the top of the vehicle.

In the event of a deer strike, AAA recommends:

- Call the police.
- Avoid making contact with the animal. A frightened or wounded animal can

hurt people or further injure itself.

- Put the vehicle's hazard lights on, whether it's light or dark outside.
- If possible, immediately move the vehicle to a safe location, out of the roadway, and wait for help to arrive.
- Motorists should contact their insurance agent or company representative as quickly as possible to report any damage.

AAA East Central is a not-for-profit association with 69 local offices in Kentucky, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia serving 2.7 million members. Follow us on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. AAA East Central provides services to its members including Automotive, Insurance, Discounts & Rewards, Financial, and Travel. Find out more about AAA Membership and current savings at <https://www.aaa.com/stop/>

UK-led team awarded \$1 million to cut cockroach infestations, asthma risks in affordable housing

With funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, University of Kentucky researchers aim to enhance the quality of life for residents dealing with cockroaches

By Jordan Strickler

Lexington, Ky.— More than 25 million people in the U.S. live with asthma, and cockroach allergens are a key trigger in many low-income, urban settings.

A University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment-led research team, with collaborators at Louisiana State University, has received a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Healthy Homes Technical Study award to develop a complete and durable approach to cockroach control in affordable housing. The project, “A Complete Approach to Cockroach Management in Affordable Housing Communities,” is funded by a nearly \$1 million cooperative agreement with HUD.

The study is designed to reduce allergen loads by pairing proven pest biology with resident-supported practices and procurement reforms that reward effective methods. The team will work across multiple affordable

housing communities, enrolling about 50 homes for in-home trials and pairing with surveys and laboratory testing.

“Cockroaches are common in many communities, and they are not just a nuisance,” said Zachary DeVries, principal investigator and The Bill Gatton Foundation Early-Career associate professor of entomology at UK. “Cockroach allergens can trigger asthma, especially among children. The good news is that when we effectively control cockroaches, those health risks decline. The challenge has been keeping them down over time in large, under-resourced communities. This project lets us tackle both the science and the real-world barriers so the gains last.”

The study, which began in April 2025 and will conclude in March 2028, has three objectives:

Identify why control efforts fail. Researchers will review pest-control request-for-proposal (RFP) language from housing authorities, test popular over-the-



Cockroach allergens can trigger things such as asthma, especially among children.

Photo by Matt Barton

counter “essential oil” products against German cockroaches and measure how sanitation levels affect results to pinpoint outdated specs, ineffective products and on-site conditions that undermine control.

Increase resident participation. The team will survey residents about practices such as prompt reporting, housekeeping routines and cooperation with building-wide treatments. It will test simple “nudges,” education and peer-comparison feedback

to improve adoption.

The team will evaluate liquid bait formulations — delivered as drinkable water sources containing a low-dose active ingredient — in both lab and home settings, comparing their performance and cost with that of standard gel baits to determine if liquid baits can match or exceed efficacy at a lower, more easily scalable price point.

Why the project matters “We know how to knock roaches down,” DeVries said. “This project is about keeping them down by aligning products, policies and people so homes stay healthy.”

From spring through early fall 2025, the team has focused on assembling personnel, securing regulatory approvals, refining study instruments and preparing sites and supplies. Resident surveys and laboratory screening of candidate products begin as recruitment ramps up, followed by in-home field trials that compare liquid baits with current gel-based approaches while tracking costs and implementation steps across approximately 50 households through 2026–27.

The final phase, from late 2027 to early 2028, focuses on data analysis and translation, converting results into practical guidance for housing authorities, property managers, service providers and residents, as well as outreach to the industry to support the broader adoption of effective and lasting methods.

“Our success isn’t a one-month snapshot; it’s whether families are still roach-free later on and whether housing providers can maintain that outcome with tools and budgets they already have,” DeVries said. “That is the benchmark we’re building toward.”

Research reported in this publication was supported by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as part of an award KYHHU0090-24 totaling \$999,979 with 100% funded by HUD.

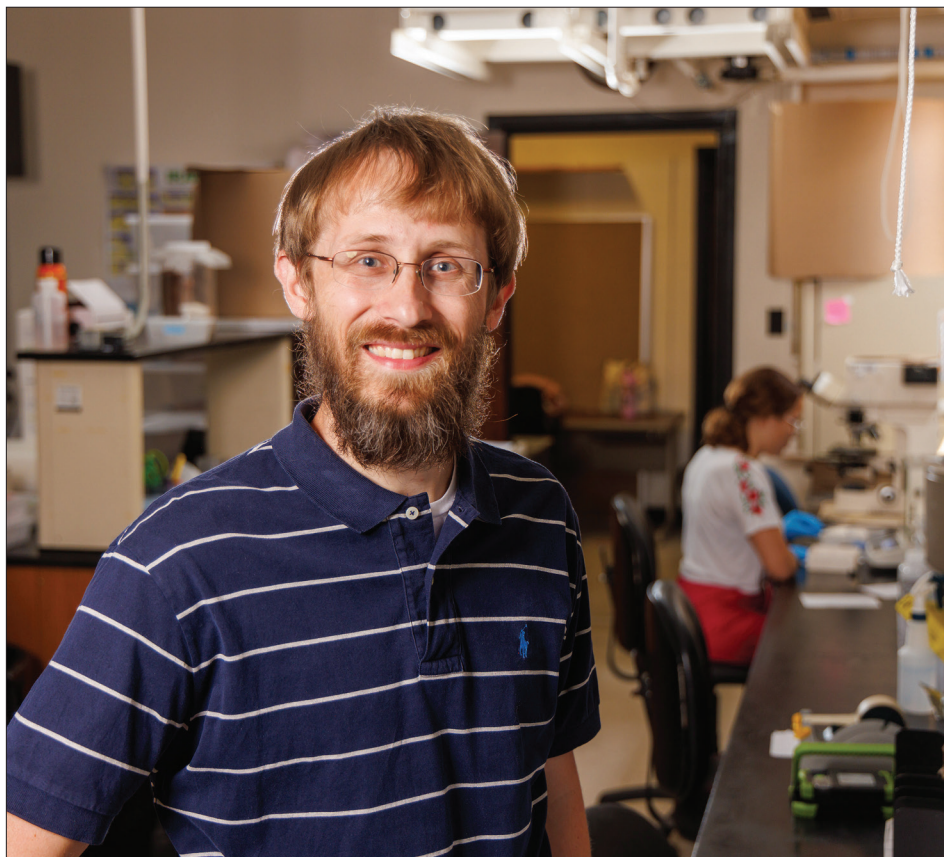
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Zachary DeVries in the lab.

Photo by Matt Barton

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Pictured above: Nathan Knight, Triston Menhoum, Gunnar Jordan, Chase Murphy and Jake Trevathan are gaining hands on experience with James Built. They are high school Apprentice students that are working hard and learning on the job; while doing things the James Built way alongside the James Wickliffe (KY) team.

Kentucky Department of Agriculture announces 2026 poster, essay contest

‘Bluegrass Roots, Agriculture Strong,’ theme focuses on state’s farming heritage

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Kentucky students are invited to enter the Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s (KDA) annual Poster and Essay Contest, Commissioner of Agriculture Jonathan Shell has announced.

The theme of the 2026 contest is “Bluegrass Roots, Agriculture Strong” encouraging contestants to illustrate in words, original artwork, or photographs how Kentucky’s heritage is reflective in its agriculture.

“Kentucky’s history is deeply rooted in agriculture. Residents can be proud of the work farmers and producers do every day to honor that history and plan for the future,” Commissioner Shell said. “By showcasing that love for our heritage in written words and beautiful art, Kentucky students can show their appreciation for what Kentucky farmers have built in our communities. This year’s contest invites students to share how Kentucky’s farming past has played a vital role for Kentucky’s future.”

Students in grades K-12 may submit a poster, an essay of 500 words or less, or a digital entry, which may be photos or original digital artwork. Each entry must include the actual written theme and be postmarked by Friday, March 20, 2026.

Winners will be notified by Friday, April 17, 2026. Winners in the poster and essay competitions will be selected in each grade. One statewide winner will be selected for digital artwork. Each winner will receive a \$100 award from Kentucky Agriculture and Environment in the Classroom and will be recognized at the



2026 Poster and Essay Contest Awards Ceremony next year. Winning entries will be displayed in

Commissioner Shell’s Frankfort office and at the 2026 Kentucky State Fair in August in Louisville.

For more information, including complete contest rules and an entry form, go to kyagr.com/marketing/poster-essay-contest.html or contact Bethany Mattingly, director of KDA’s Agriculture Education and Outreach Division, at Bethany. Mattingly@ky.gov or (502) 782-4125.

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