

Fayette County Agriculture & Natural Resources Newsletter

October 2025

 Cooperative Extension Service

Cooperative Extension Service
Fayette County Extension
1140 Harry Sykes Way
Lexington, KY 40504-1383
Phone (859) 257-5582
Email: fayette.ext@uky.edu
<http://fayette.ca.uky.edu/>

Happy fall!

There is a lot going on in Fayette County agriculture this time of year as well as the Extension Office! In this newsletter you will find some insightful articles regarding soil fertility and planting of cover crops following harvest, as well as important information regarding forage management this time of year.

Be sure to check out the upcoming Fayette County programs located on pages 3-5. The two I would like to highlight are the Celebrate Tree Week by Talking Invasives in Woodlands and Beef Conference coming up later this month. I hope to see you all there! As always if you have any questions or have recommendations on programs needed for the agricultural community, please feel free to reach out!



Allison Tucker
Fayette County Extension Agent for
Agriculture & Natural Resources

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 17, 2025 ~ Celebrate Tree Week by Talking Invasives; Kelley's Landing Park, 8949 Old Richmond Rd, Lexington, KY; 1:00-3:00pm; Please see the flyer in this newsletter for more information on how to register.

October 21, 2025 ~ Kentucky Beef Conference; Fayette County Extension Office, Lexington, KY; Please see the flyer in this newsletter for more information on the event and how to register.

October 28, 2025 ~ 2025 KY Grazing Conference - East; Clark County Extension Office, Winchester, KY; 7:30am-4pm; To register, please go online to <https://forages.ca.uky.edu/events>

October 29, 2025 ~ 2025 Profitability Workshop; Hardin County Extension Office, Elizabethtown, KY; 8:00am-3:30pm; Space is limited and registration is required; Registration is \$100; For more information or to register: <https://forages.mgcafe.uky.edu/events>

November 14, 2025 ~ Mindfulness Trails at Hisle Park; 3551 Briar Hill Road, Lexington, KY; 1:00-3:00pm; Please see the flyer in this newsletter.

November 24, 2025 ~ Forage Focus: Quality + Marketing + Nutrition; Fayette County Extension Office, Lexington, KY; 6:00pm; Please see the flyer in this newsletter for more information; Must RSVP by October 27th.



Cooperative Extension Service

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

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating. Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.



Ratatouille Soup

1 small eggplant, peeled and cubed	1 medium bell pepper, chopped	1 24 ounce jar chunky garden style pasta sauce
2 teaspoons salt	1 medium onion, chopped	2 cups water
1 pound lean ground chuck	1 tablespoon finely minced garlic (about 3 cloves)	1 teaspoon dried basil
1 tablespoon canola oil	1 14.5 ounce can low sodium beef broth	1 cup uncooked whole grain pasta
1 medium zucchini, chopped		

Place the cubed eggplant in a colander. **Toss** with the salt and let set for 20-25 minutes. Thoroughly **rinse** in cold water and press as much water out of the eggplant as possible. Set aside. In a large heavy pot, **brown** the ground beef over medium heat until crumbly and no longer pink. **Drain**. Raise the heat to medium-high. **Add** the canola oil to the same pot. **Return** the beef to the pot. **Add** the zucchini, bell pepper, onion and garlic. **Cook** together for 5-7 minutes, until onion is translucent. **Add** the eggplant to the mixture and continue to **cook** for 5

minutes. **Add** the beef broth, pasta sauce, water and basil. Bring to a **boil**, then reduce heat to medium-low, **cover** and **simmer** for 10 minutes. **Add** the pasta. Raise heat to medium. Bring to a slow **boil** and **cook**, stirring occasionally for 10-12 minutes, or until the pasta is tender.

Yield: 12, 1 cup servings

Nutritional Analysis: 210 calories, 10 g fat, 3 g saturated fat, 35 mg cholesterol, 680 mg sodium, 19 g carbohydrate, 3 g fiber, 8 g sugar, 13 g protein



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

**For Plate It Up!
recipes, visit:**

<http://fcs-hes.ca.uky.edu/content/plate-it-kentucky-proud>



**For Cook Wild Kentucky
recipes, visit:**

<https://www.planeatmove.com/recipes>



Forage Timely Tips: October

Source: **UK Forage News**, <https://kyforagenews.wordpress.com>

- Feed hay to allow cool-season pastures to accumulate forage growth for winter grazing.
- Leave 4" stubble on some pastures to stimulate faster spring regrowth
- Do NOT harvest or graze alfalfa fields after killing frost or November.
- Inventory and test each hay lot for nutritive value and consult a nutritionist to design a supplementation program as needed.
- Remove ruminants from pastures that contain sorghum species (forage sorghums, sorghum-sudangrass hybrids, sudangrass, and johnsongrass) when frost is expected. Even small patches of johnsongrass that have been frosted can cause prussic acid poisoning.
- Begin strip grazing early planted small grain and brassicas (turnips and rape) mixes by the end of this month.
- Late October/early November Can be a great time to control broadleaf weeds like plantain (broadleaf or buckhorn), biennial thistles (bull, musk, plumeless), and poison hemlock.



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

"Today's Challenges, Tomorrow's Opportunities"

Kentucky Beef Conference



October 21, 2025

Fayette County Extension Office
1140 Harry Sykes Way
Lexington, Kentucky 40504

2:00-3:00

Registration, visit
sponsors

**RSVP by October 17th
to Fayette County
Extension Office
859.257.5582**

****If you have a gluten or
alpha gal allergy please
indicate that when you
call****

CAIP Education Eligible

3:00 — Welcome & Sponsor Recognition

Allison Tucker, Fayette County Agriculture & Natural Resources Extension Agent

University of KY Remarks & Welcome

Dr. Craig Wood, Ast. Director of Extension for Agriculture, Natural Resources & Horticulture

Marketing Update & Outlook

Dr. Kenny Burdine, UK Beef Economic Extension Specialist

4:00 – Bull Management & Selection

Dr. Saulo Zoca, University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture Beef Reproduction Extension Specialist

5:00— Emerging Insect Pests

Dr. Hannah Tiffin, UK Extension Entomologist

Dr. Jessie Lay, UK Extension Animal Health Veterinarian

6:15 — Questions/Wrap up

6:30 — Meal

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Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.



**CAIP
Eligible**

FORAGE FOCUS:

QUALITY + MARKETING + NUTRITION

Join us for an informative and engaging Hay Program designed for hay producers. This event will cover key topics including understanding hay testing, effective hay marketing strategies, practical beef cattle ration tools, and a producer panel. The program will conclude with a celebratory Hay Awards Banquet, recognizing excellence in hay production. Don't miss this opportunity to learn, network, and honor outstanding achievements in the hay industry!



NOVEMBER 24TH
6:00 P.M.



RSVP OR QUESTIONS CALL:
(859) 257-5582



FAYETTE COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
1140 HARRY SYKES WY, LEXINGTON, KY 40504

Please RSVP by end of day on October 27th for meal reservation!

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MINDFULNESS TRAILS AT HISLE PARK

**Cooperative
Extension Service**



**LEXINGTON
Parks & Recreation**



**JOIN US FOR A MINDFULNESS TRAILS HIKE. TAKE SOME
TIME OUT OF YOUR DAY TO SLOW DOWN, RELAX AND
RECHARGE IN BEAUTIFUL HISLE PARK!**

Benefits:

- reduce stress, anxiety, depression
- increase productivity + energy levels
- improve overall health, creativity, self-awareness

HOSTED BY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION AT HISLE PARK
3551 BRIAR HILL ROAD, LEXINGTON, KY 40516
NOVEMBER 14TH, 2025 - 1-3PM

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CELEBRATE TREE WEEK BY TALKING INVASIVES

**Cooperative
Extension Service**



**LEXINGTON
Parks & Recreation**

**Cooperative
Extension Service**

**Agriculture and
Natural Resources**

Join us on an invasive species walk at the new Kelley's Landing Park! We will be discussing and identifying Kentucky's invasive plants and how they effect our woodlands. We will also be discussing management techniques to control those invasive plant species.

OCTOBER 17TH, 2025

1:00 - 3:00PM

8949 Old Richmond Rd, Lexington, KY 40515

**PLEASE EMAIL REENA.MARTIN@UKY.EDU OR ALLISON.TUCKER@UKY.EDU TO
RSVP OR CALL THE FAYETTE COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE (859) 257-5582**

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Soil Fertility for Fall Planted Winter Grains and Cover Crops: 2025's Special Considerations

Dr. John Grove, UK Soils Research/Extension Dr. Edwin Ritchey, UK Extension Soil Specialist
KENTUCKY FIELD CROPS NEWS (September 2025, Volume 01, Issue 09)

At present, what many parts of Kentucky need most is moisture. Some drills are able to place seed appropriately under these dry conditions, but some will not provide a consistent planting depth. Inconsistent seed depth can lead to uneven seed germination and seedling growth as dry weather continues. Lack of moisture can delay fall planting dates and delayed planting can reduce fall plant growth. This situation can change the need for fall nutrition, causing a challenging decision environment.

The fall season is an important fertility management period for fall planted grains (wheat, barley, canola, rye, oats, triticale). Good nutrition pays benefits, getting these crops off to a vigorous start that also promotes winter hardiness. That said, fertilizer costs, especially phosphate costs, are generally high and grain prices, except for canola, are generally low. This further impacts fall fertilization decisions.

Much of our fertilizer is imported, especially potash. Fertilizer price volatility and material availability dynamics might depend on tariffs. We need to be aware of these outside forces as we make fall nutrition management plans. Talk to your fertilizer retailer(s) to understand where the nutrient materials you're buying come from and stay up to date on fertilizer price dynamics. Staying aware can help keep soil fertility input costs lower and reduce the likelihood of economic loss to added fertilizers.

We usually tell producers to start with a soil test. Soil test information gives more certainty/power when decision-making gets tricky. If you already have soil tests that are 'relevant' for your fields that are to be planted this fall, then you're good. That said, an additional complication to this fall's nutrient plan, due to an extended planting season and the late summer drought, is the likely variation, field to field, in grain yield and resulting nutrient removal in the corn or full season soybean crop preceding this fall planted grain crop. This variability might increase your uncertainty as you interpret an existing (soil samples taken as much as 2 years earlier) soil test report. These reports assume yields consistent with above average management and good growing conditions. Not all Kentucky summer grain fields got those 'good growing conditions' this year.

But if you need to take samples this fall, then first be aware that taking samples to the proper depth in dry, hard soil is more difficult but remains very important. Accurate recommendations will not be possible if your sampling depth is shallow. The sample timing, relative to the first fall rains, is important, too. It is best if rainfall is sufficient (2 to 4 inches) to dilute and distribute residual fertilizer salts deeper in the root zone.

We always stress the importance of soil pH management, especially because pH plays a significant role in the plant availability of soil nutrients like phosphorus (P) and zinc (Zn). But depending on the soil test lab used, residual salts can cause lower soil water pH values and the resulting soil test report then has a higher than needed lime rate recommendation. The UK soil test laboratory determines pH and buffer pH differently, by 'swamping' residual salts in the sample. This results in an accurate determination of the soil lime requirement. Early fall rains also leach potassium (K) out of harvested crop residues into the soil, then measured as soil test K (STK). Without these rains, all labs will report abnormally low STK values, resulting in overly high potash rate recommendations.

Fall nitrogen (N) for the fall seeded grains should only provide enough N to give good ground cover for winter survival, good rooting (esp. canola) and to stimulate tillering (wheat, barley, rye, oats, triticale) without excessive fall growth that can encourage spring freeze damage. Planting after tobacco, soybean, or well fertilized corn will usually have enough carryover N for fall growth. This year, residual N following corn will largely depend on how corn N fertilization was timed. The earlier the bulk of corn fertilizer N was applied, the more substantial and likely was rainfall driven N loss – and fall carryover N levels will probably be low in these fields. The full amount should not exceed 30 lb N/A (canola) or 40 lb N/A (wheat, barley, rye, oats, triticale) for fields with insufficient residual N. The total amount of fall N should include the N found in phosphate products like diammonium phosphate (DAP, 18-46-0) and monoammonium phosphate (MAP, 11-52-0). If the field does not need any fall N but does need P, consider using triple super phosphate (TSP, 0-46-0). Fall-applied N will be of little benefit to late planted crops – where little fall growth is expected. No fall-applied N is recommended for cover crops unless these are planted early and will be grazed or cut for hay/haylage.

Phosphate (P₂O₅) and potash (K₂O) rate recommendations are found here in Table 1, taken from Tables 16, 20 and 24 of AGR-1. The K₂O rate recommendations are for soybean, assuming that soybean will follow the fall planted grain crop. Fall P and K applications are important to crop vigor, early growth and winter hardiness, especially when soil test P (STP) and STK are very low, low, to mid-medium. Above mid-medium (STP > 45; STK > 245), recommended P₂O₅ and K₂O fertilization rates are largely 'maintenance', intended to maintain soil P and K availability. Economically profitable responses to fertilizer P and K addition are not likely.

Continued on next page

And while most P and K fertilizers for fall planted grain crops are applied in the fall, growers might consider delaying some or all maintenance P and K fertilization until late winter/early spring, at the time of the first N application. Fertilizer economics may be more favorable.

Sulfur (S) deficiency symptoms in wheat have become more common. We observed a very large (and very unexpected) wheat yield response to S here at the UKREC this year. The S need of the other fall planted grains is unknown but is presumed similar to wheat. Canola has a reputation for greater S need relative to the other fall planted grains. Observed S deficiencies have typically been found on more coarse-textured (coarse silty) soils that are also low in organic matter. Eroded areas are often the first parts of a field to show these deficiencies. Sulfur deficiencies are now more likely due to a reduced

atmospheric deposition of S, fewer S impurities in other fertilizers and greater S removal with higher yields. At present, the need for S addition to wheat is best determined by a combination of plant tissue analysis of the previous crop and soil testing. If the previous crop's tissue S concentration is deficient/marginal, then the next wheat crop is more likely to experience S deficiency. Though organic S and adsorbed sulfate-S are the most important soil S sources, fall seeded grains, as winter annuals, depend more heavily on sulfate-S. Mineralization of organic S is lower and slower during the fall-winter-spring growth period. Recent research sponsored by the Kentucky Small Grain Growers Association shows that Mehlich III extractable S can help indicate the probability of wheat S deficiency. When topsoil test S exceeded 20 lb S/acre, the probability of a positive wheat yield response to S addition was essentially nil. When soil test S values indicate an S addition is needed, 10 to 20 lb S/acre will meet crop needs. For wheat and other fall planted cereals, ammonium thiosulfate (ATS, 12-0-0-26S) is commonly used because it is soluble in UAN solutions. Other sulfate-S sources include ammonium sulfate (AMS, 21-0-0-24S), potassium sulfate (SOP, 0-0-50-17S), potassium magnesium sulfate (K-Mag, sul-po-mag, 0-0-21-22S) and calcium sulfate (gypsum, 14 to 19% S). Elemental S materials are not recommended for deficiency correction (might be more useful in a maintenance/insurance role) because biological conversion of elemental S to sulfate-S is required and is then dependent on the size of the elemental S fertilizer particle (smaller is better/faster), soil conditions (temperature, moisture) and time.

Boron (B) deficiency can also occur in Kentucky wheat fields. Again, the B needs of the other fall planted grains is unknown at present. In field research sponsored by the Kentucky Small Grain Growers Association, we found that soil testing for B can help producers decide when to apply B. The UK soil test lab offers hot water extraction, and we determined that soil test B levels lower than 0.8 lb B/acre indicate a need for B addition. Mehlich III extraction was also evaluated and was not as useful an indicator. When a need for B fertilization is indicated, the recommended rate is 1 lb B/acre. Uniform application of a granular material at such a low rate, even as part of fertilizer blend, can be difficult. There are B sources (e.g. disodium octaborate tetrahydrate, Solubor) that are soluble in both water and UAN solutions. Others are co-granulated/co-prilled with a dry fertilizer material (e.g. muriate of potash plus sodium and calcium borates/Aspire 0.5% B). Over application of B can result in B toxicity, so B soil testing should be done regularly to prevent this problem from occurring.

Cover crops include a large number of plant species, including cereals, legumes and non-legume broadleaves. In Kentucky, winter wheat and rye are more commonly planted as cover crops. Fall N, P and K fertilization is not usual for cover crops – scavenging of residual soil nutrients is one of the main benefits of cover cropping. Fall nutrition, especially N addition, can enhance cover crop growth, and might be valuable when the cover crop is to be grazed/hayed/ensiled. But if the cover crop is not going to be utilized, then the grower needs to understand consequences to greater cover crop growth. Will termination management be negatively affected? Will recovery of residual nutrients be enhanced or suppressed? Again, soil testing can guide the decision. Note that with soil test S values under 20 lb S/A, cover crop growth can immobilize soil sulfate-S and create an S nutrition problem for the next cash crop.

Fall has been considered an important opportunity for soil fertility management, and that remains true. Fall seeded crops benefit from good nutrition, but fertilizer economics are not entirely straightforward at present. Soil testing and being prepared for seasonal weather and pricing changes are important to a strong fall fertility program for these crops.

Table 1. Phosphate (P₂O₅) and potash (K₂O) fertilizer rate recommendations for fall seeded grains, followed by double crop soybean, according to soil test phosphorus (STP) and STK.

Winter Cereals			Winter Canola		Double Crop Soybean		
Soil Test	STP Value	P ₂ O ₅ Rate	STP Value	P ₂ O ₅ Rate	Soil Test	STK Value	K ₂ O Rate
Category	lb/acre	lb/acre	lb/acre	lb/acre	Category	lb/acre	lb/acre
High	≥ 60	0	≥ 60	0	High	≥ 300	0
Medium	45 - 60	40	48 - 60	30	Medium	191 - 300	60
	41 - 44	50	45 - 47	40	Low	173 - 190	70
	38 - 40	60	41 - 44	50		155 - 172	80
	34 - 39	70	38 - 40	60		136 - 154	90
	31 - 33	80	34 - 39	70		118 - 135	100
Low	24 - 30	90	24 - 30	90	Very Low	100 - 117	110
	17 - 23	100	17 - 23	100		82 - 99	120
	10 - 16	110	10 - 16	110		64 - 81	130
Very Low	< 10	120	< 10	120		46 - 63	140
						< 46	150

JOIN EXTENSION AND INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS FOR THE FALL 2025 SERIES



Farm Business and Management
Oct. 6

Goat Processing
Oct. 20

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

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Livestock Marketing
Nov. 3

Hay and Grain Production

Nov. 17

Coyote Management
Dec. 1

Open Forum: Ask Me Anything
Dec. 15

Webinars are hosted via Zoom (7-8 p.m. EST). Register at: go.osu.edu/allaboutgoats25



DATES	TOPICS
September 10	Industry Margins & Beef Demand
September 17	Differences in this Cattle Cycle & Import Dynamics
October 1	Risk Management & What To Do With Profits
October 8	Operation Resiliency & Contract Grazing
October 22	Integrated Crop-Livestock Systems & How Not to Need a Hay Baler
October 29	Defining "Better Genetics" & Economics of Reproduction Strategies



The University of Florida is an Equal Opportunity Institution. The University of Florida is committed to providing universal access to all of our events. For disability accommodations such as sign language interpreters and listening devices, please contact Hannah Baker, h.baker@ufl.edu, 863-374-7051 at least 2 week in advance. Advance notice is necessary to arrange for some accessibility needs.

Southern
IPM
Center

If you would like a hard copy mailed to you,
please email allison.tucker@uky.edu.

Weekly Kentucky Livestock and Grain Summary

USDA Livestock, Poultry and Grain Market News

Frankfort, KY

Monday, October 6, 2025

For Week Ending:

Saturday, October 4, 2025

Receipts: 16,578

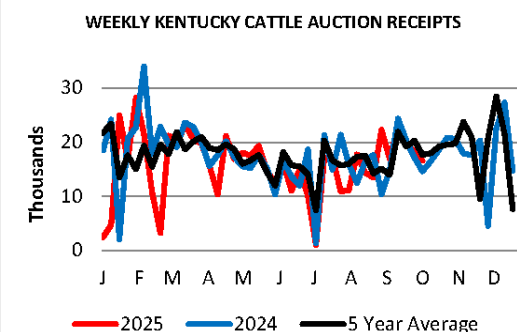
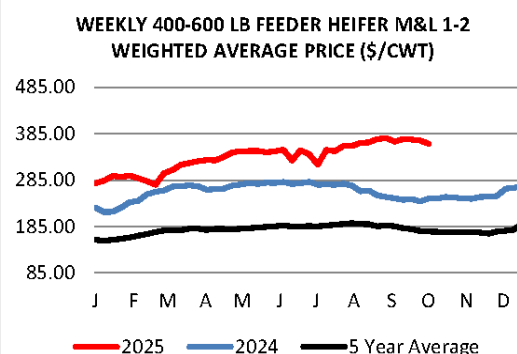
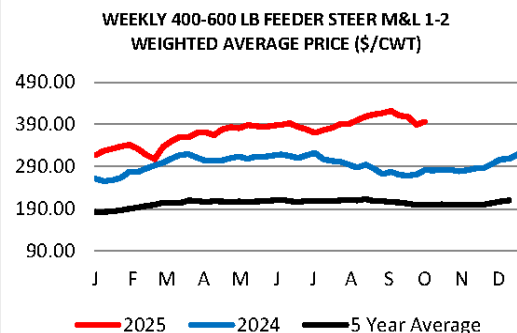
Last Week: 18,354

Last Year: 14,631

Compared to last week feeder steers and heifers were mixed again this week with markets reporting from 5.00 lower to 4.00 higher. Demand was moderate to good for feeders and yearlings. Slaughter cows and bulls sold mostly steady with moderate to good demand.

[View Full Summary](#)

Steers (M&L 1-2)	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
350-400 lbs	421.87	447.91	291.45
400-450 lbs	415.45	420.94	277.64
450-500 lbs	413.47	410.96	279.31
500-550 lbs	380.97	385.26	270.81
550-600 lbs	371.42	374.95	263.48
600-650 lbs	353.43	356.95	252.65
650-700 lbs	344.19	347.49	242.70
700-750 lbs	341.14	341.34	237.81
750-800 lbs	338.65	345.60	237.70
800-850 lbs	341.30	326.80	224.43
850-900 lbs	316.75	331.33	225.36
Heifers (M&L 1-2)			
300-350 lbs	382.44	384.72	252.58
350-400 lbs	394.92	394.54	258.00
400-450 lbs	369.68	375.83	245.53
450-500 lbs	363.87	365.41	242.44
500-550 lbs	353.71	357.56	237.91
550-600 lbs	343.40	345.05	232.03
600-650 lbs	327.77	330.38	228.14
650-700 lbs	323.57	322.28	223.15
700-750 lbs	298.92	307.50	208.76
750-800 lbs	299.60	293.75	215.56



WEEKLY COW SUMMARY				
Slaughter Cows	Average	High	Low	
Breakers	141.00-168.00	154.00-179.00	131.00-159.00	
Boners	139.00-170.00	154.00-197.00	120.00-159.00	
Lean	110.00-169.00	140.00-175.00	90.00-149.00	
Slaughter Bulls	Average	High	Low	
Yield Grade 1&2	173.00-205.00	188.00-217.00	145.00-189.00	

[View Full Report](#)

Sep 25, 2025

Bowling Green, KY

SLAUGHTER GOATS: 156

Kids - Selection 1 55 lbs 335.00; 69 lbs 315.00. **Kids Selection 2** 50-53 lbs 227.50-315.00; 70-73 lbs 225.00-305.00; 85-88 lbs 265.00-330.00.

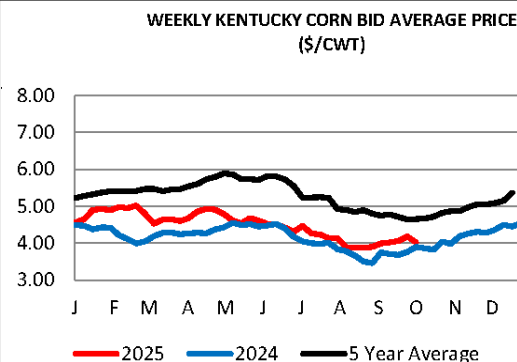
SLAUGHTER SHEEP: 931

Hair Breeds-Choice & Prime 1-2 53-58 lbs 325.00; 66 lbs 255.00; 75-78 lbs 225.00-255.00; 89 lbs 205.00; 90 lbs 205.00; 110.00-115.00 lbs 190.00-195.00.

Choice 1-3 51 lbs 285.00. **Woolled-Choice & Prime 1-2** 80 lbs 225.00; 109 lbs 215.00; 115 lbs 230.00; 137 lbs 245.00; 153 lbs 195.00.

[View Latest Grain Report](#)

GRAINS	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
Corn	3.66-4.27	3.72-4.26	3.73-4.84
Soybeans	8.87-10.14	8.94-9.96	9.27-10.20
Red Winter Wheat	4.77-5.46	4.77-5.22	4.78-5.37



USDA-KY Livestock, Poultry & Grain Market News

Frankfort, KY

Levi Geyer, OIC 502-782-4138

Email: Levi.Geyer@usda.gov

[USDA Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News](#)



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1140 Harry Sykes Way
Lexington, KY 40504-1383

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Fayette County Cooperative Extension Agriculture & Natural Resources Newsletter

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Allison Tucker
County Extension Agent for Agriculture
& Natural Resources
Cooperative Extension Service
Fayette County Extension Service
1140 Harry Sykes Way
Lexington, KY 40504-1383
(859) 257-5582



Office Hours: 8:00am - 4:30pm - Monday-Friday

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY,
KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY, U.S.
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND
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