

# Union County ANR Newsletter

## November/December 2024

**UK** Martin-Gatton  
College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment

Union County  
Cooperative Extension Service  
1938 US HWY 60W  
Morganfield Ky 42437  
270-389-1400



**UK** Cooperative  
Extension Service



# Bull Breeding Soundness Evaluation Clinic

## Stone Veterinary Clinic

(8862 US HWY 60W Sturgis, KY)

### 8am-12pm



There will be a  
Evaluation Fee of  
**\$60/Bull**

Evaluation Will Include:  
Physical Examination  
Reproductive Examination  
Semen Evaluation

\* Optional vaccine/deworming  
can be done at appointment  
for additional price\*

### Reserve your Spot by Nov 18, 2024

To save your spot or for more  
information Contact Katie Hughes

Union Co ANR Agent

270-389-1400 or

[katie.n.hughes@uky.edu](mailto:katie.n.hughes@uky.edu)

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



### Cooperative Extension Service

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



Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.

## **Changes to CAIP Beef Bull Cost-Share Program**

Dr. Darrh Bullock, UKY Extension Specialist

Significant changes to the CAIP Beef Bull Cost-share program have been approved for 2025. Both Kentucky and Tennessee have similar programs but have traditionally had different Expected Progeny Differences (EPD) requirements. The guidelines committees of the two states met and came to consensus on a set of guidelines that are now uniform across the state line. Some of the major changes are highlighted in this article, however, pay close attention to the full requirements before purchasing a bull for cost-share funding.

The number of bull categories has been reduced to 3; Balanced Trait/Maternal, Terminal Sire and Carcass Merit. There is no longer a Heifer Acceptable category, however, recommended minimal Calving Ease Direct or Birth Weight EPDs are provided for those that plan to breed the bull to heifers.

There are only EPD requirements for CED/BW and Growth traits OR CED/BW and an appropriate Economic Selection Index value depending on the breed. There is no longer a milk requirement for Balanced Trait/Maternal, however a range is recommended for producers to consider staying within. There are also recommendations for maximum Mature Weight EPDs and minimum Docility EPDs.

The formatting has changed. Instead of all breeds' requirements being listed in a table for each bull category, they are now listed by breed with the requirements and recommendations for each category.

All bulls will still be required to be genomically tested and have Genomically Enhanced EPDs! Contact your breed association for more information on how to accomplish this.

These new requirements will be implemented starting January 1, 2025. Please bear with us as we make this transition, we will try to work through any issues that arise. In the long run this will simplify bull purchases across the KY/TN state line and will improve the program overall.

## **Kentucky Soybean Board-FREE Soybean Cyst Nematode Testing**

Beginning in the Fall of 2019, the Kentucky Soybean Board funded a pilot program for free soybean cyst nematode (SCN) testing for Kentucky soybean farmers. The Kentucky Soybean Board is continuing to fund free soybean cyst nematode (SCN) testing. The Kentucky Soybean Board is working closely with University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension to implement this program. With this program, each county has a limited number of free samples. Farmers must contact their local County Extension Office for information on how to receive free SCN testing for one of their fields. Fall and Spring (before planting) are the best times to collect soil samples from fields for SCN testing.

### **HOW TO COLLECT SOIL SAMPLES FROM A FIELD FOR SOYBEAN CYST NEMATODE**

#### **TESTING:**

- Use a soil probe to collect soil 6 to 8 inches deep from at least 20 locations within the sampling area (i.e. 20 sub-samples).
- Follow a “zig-zag” pattern when sampling.
- If you are sampling a field that has most recently been in soybean, collect the soil cores from the soybean root zone area.
- Once the sub-samples have been collected, mix the contents in a bucket and immediately place at least one pint in a soil testing sample bag or in a double-plastic bag and then seal the bag.
- Mark the field name / sample number on the bag.
- **Protect the sample from extreme heat. If not sending for analysis immediately, refrigerate sample until sending for analysis. Do not freeze sample**

For more information contact Katie at 270-389-1400 or email [katie.n.hughes@uky.edu](mailto:katie.n.hughes@uky.edu)

# Alpha-Gal Syndrome Information Meeting



**DEC 12, 2024**

**5:30PM**

**UNION CO**

**EXTENSION OFFICE**

**(1938 US HWY 60W, MORGANFIELD KY)**

## **SPEAKERS:**

- Dr. Jonathan Larson, UKY Entomology Specialist
- Shea Heady, Union Co FCS Agent

**THIS MEETING IS FREE TO ATTEND!**

**IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW HAS ALPHA-GAL SYNDROME, OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ALPHA-GAL, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO COME OUT.**

**CONTACT THE UNION CO EXTENSION OFFICE TO SIGN UP BY DEC 12 OR FOR MORE INFORMATION 270-389-1400 SHEA HEADY, UNION CO FCS AGENT KATIE HUGHES, UNION CO ANR AGENT**

**\*\*CAIP-ED APPROVED\*\***



Colors are:  
Red, White, Pink, Ice  
Crystal, Red Glitter and  
Marble.

*It's that time of year!*

Help support your local 4-H. Contact a 4-H'er and order your poinsettias. Orders are due by 4:30 PM on November 25th!

Cost are:  
\$16/ea. 6.5"  
\$25/ea. 8" (Red only)

Pick Up:  
Dec 6 12pm-4:30pm  
Extension Office

Make Check Payable:  
UC 4-H

For more information contact Annette Buckman at 270-389-1400.

# Wreath Making Workshop

Fresh greens, materials and instruction will be provided to make and take a beautiful wreath!

**PICK THE SESSION THAT WORKS  
BEST FOR YOU:**

**DEC 10: 2PM OR 6PM**

**DEC 11: 2PM OR 6PM**

**DEC 12: 2PM**

**DEC 13: 9AM OR 2PM**

**DEC 14: 9AM OR 1PM**

**WORKSHOP WILL BE AT THE UNION  
CO EXTENSION OFFICE  
(1938 US HWY 60W, MORGANFIELD)**

**WORKSHOP IS FREE BUT MUST  
SIGN UP WITH THE UNION CO  
EXTENSION OFFICE  
270-389-1400**

**SPACE WILL BE LIMITED PER SESSION.  
SO DON'T WAIT TO SIGN UP!  
BRING A PAIR OF GARDENING GLOVES.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
KATIE HUGHES, UNION CO ANR AGENT  
270-389-1400  
KATIE.N.HUGHES@UKY.EDU**



## Large Grain Crops in Kentucky and Low Prices Put Pressure on Storage

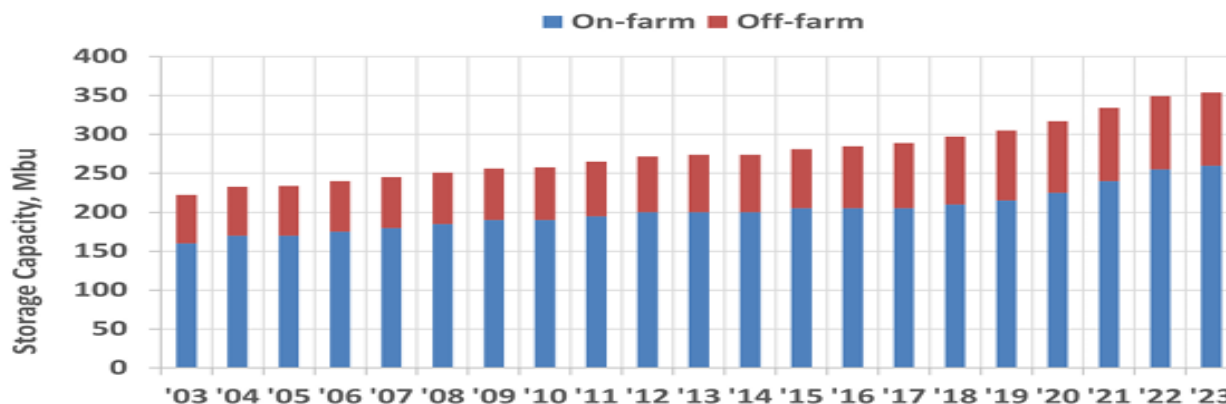
Dr. Sam McNeill, UK Extension Ag Engineer  
Dr. Grant Gardner, UK Extension Ag Economist

Corn harvest is well underway in Kentucky and ahead of the 5-year average for early October. This is largely due to the dry weather conditions throughout August and September, but there was sufficient rainfall during the growing season to make a decent crop statewide. In fact, pre-harvest projected yields were similar to last year (Table 1). Barring any widespread damaging weather as harvest continues, this will be the 6th largest corn crop historically. When combined with the predicted soybean and wheat crops, this will be the 3rd largest number of bushels ever produced in Kentucky (383 million bushels). In comparison, last year's combined production was an all-time record of just over 420 million bushels.

**Table 1.** Predicted grain production, average of recent cash prices and production value for 2024 in Kentucky. (Source: USDA News Release, Aug. 12, 2024: [www.nass.usda.gov/ky](http://www.nass.usda.gov/ky)).

Crop	Harvested	Yield	Production	Avg.	Total value
	Acres (1000)	bu/ac	bu (1000)	\$/bu	\$1000
Corn	1,280	187	239,360	\$4.00	\$957,440
Soybean	2,040	55	112,200	\$9.50	\$1,065,900
Wheat	410	77	31,570	\$5.50	\$173,635
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,730</b>		<b>383,130</b>		<b>\$2,196,975</b>

These large crops and low prices over the summer have put pressure on existing storage space, so we continue to see new bins on many farms. USDA estimates indicate that 5 million bushels of new on-farm storage was installed in the state last year, bringing the total capacity just over 260 million bushels (Figure 1). In comparison, off-farm storage capacity was unchanged for the year at 94 million bushels, so on-farm storage remains at 2.8 times that, which is among the highest portion in the US (at 73% of total capacity statewide). Also, grain production has been expanding in general and is more pronounced in some areas of Kentucky where storage is limited. For these reasons, the potential growth for short-term and long storage is quite strong. Recent marketing challenges have put further pressure on storage and resulted in increased interest in temporary structures for the remainder of this year. The University of Kentucky Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering Department has recently updated a decision tool for calculating the storage capacity of bins and temporary options and is available at <https://bae.ca.uky.edu/extension/grain-storage-systems>.



**Figure 1.** On-farm and off-farm grain storage capacities (Mbu) from 2003 to 2023 in Kentucky.

## **Large Grain Crops in Kentucky and Low Prices Put Pressure on Storage, Continued;**

Another free decision tool is available to help farmers compare the costs of storing grain in bins or bags. Agricultural economists at the universities of Kentucky and Tennessee developed a spread sheet tool to compare the full costs of storing grain in silage bags versus conventional bins and posted it at <https://arec.tennessee.edu/grain-bag-and-bin-storage>. An accompanying publication compares the pros and cons between the two systems. Although current cash prices are well below the seasonal average for the past few years (since 2019), the combined value is still over \$2B (Table 1). Considering that post-harvest losses of 1% or more are not uncommon during storage and most often result in discounts by the elevator or grain buyer, this represents a value over \$20 million in lost income statewide! Hence, prudent post-harvest management of stored grain is essential to protect product value and quality during handling, drying and storage. More information on safe grain handling practices, energy efficient drying methods, and proven post-harvest management tools for on-farm and off-farm facilities is also provided at County Extension Offices and the above UK website.

### **Johnsongrass Control Moving into 2025**

Dr. Travis Legleiter, UK Extension Weed Specialist

Johnsongrass has long been a problematic weed in Kentucky, but it hasn't always been at the top of our minds the last several years with the continual onslaught of weeds like waterhemp, Palmer amaranth, and Italian ryegrass. This year though, it seems Johnsongrass made a comeback or at least reminded us that it is still very much a problematic weed that needs to be managed. Unlike many of the weeds we deal with in our row crop acres, Johnsongrass is perennial that spread by seed and rhizomes. This allows Johnsongrass to gain a foothold in the Kentucky landscape of no-till row crops in close proximity to rights of way and perennial forage fields and pastures where this weed tends to thrive and spread.

This past spring and summer, Johnsongrass seemed to really explode and was much more prominent in our corn and soybean acres. I believe there was a couple of reasons for the perceived sudden increase in Johnsongrass pressure. I believe we have been building our Johnsongrass stock (rhizomes) for the past couple of years and the weather this year was set up perfectly for Johnsongrass to thrive. Generally, across the state we had a great April for field work and planting of corn and early soybean and for burndown of winter annuals for May planted crops. Then we received multiple heavy rainfall events in May that kept planters and sprayers out of the field. These spring conditions in combination with a warm winter and fields with existing Johnsongrass rhizomes allowed for a perfect scenario for Johnsongrass to thrive. Following the successful clearing of winter annuals from the field, Johnsongrass was able to immediately emerge from rhizomes and thrive in the late April and May conditions with little interruption from field activities. The good news is that our postemergence applications in both corn and soybeans were largely successful. Other than a few isolated locations, herbicide resistant Johnsongrass has not become prevalent in Kentucky and no cases of glyphosate resistance has been identified. This is not to say that we should not worry about that possibility though.

As I indicated above, I believe in many of our no-till fields we have been allowing for the establishment of Johnsongrass rhizome networks. Johnsongrass emerging from rhizomes is significantly harder to control than seedling Johnsongrass. Management of rhizome Johnsongrass should be approached from a long-term perspective rather than the short-term approach often taken with annual weeds. Having this long-term approach in mind producers and consultants should be evaluating fields for the potential need for fall herbicide application. If you had fields with particularly heavy Johnsongrass infestations this year, even if your post programs were effective, you should go observe those fields to see how much Johnsongrass has regrown or emerged since harvest. Fields with significant Johnsongrass regrowth or emergence this fall should be considered for a fall application.



## Johnsongrass Control Moving into 2025, Continued;

As a perennial plant Johnsongrass has now started the process of preparing for its explosive reemergence next spring. It is doing this by pushing nutrients down into the rhizome network to be stored over the winter and to be used next spring. Farmers can use this to their advantage by making applications of glyphosate to the Johnsongrass that will also move to the rhizome network causing significant damage to the network and overall weakening or killing the plant going into next spring. Although, it should not be expected that a single fall application will permanently take out the Johnsongrass in a field. It will take several years of intense management to deplete an established population. Again, Johnsongrass requires a long-term control approach. Here are a few keys for fall applications for Johnsongrass: • Scout fields to assure Johnsongrass has had time to regrow or emerge following harvest • Apply 0.75 to 1.125 lb. ae glyphosate plus AMS • If applications are occurring in late fall, target periods of warmer weather if possible Refer to page 16 of AGR-6 (<https://publications.ca.uky.edu/files/AGR6.pdf>) for a product use rates for the above listed glyphosate rates.



**Image 1.** Johnsongrass emergence from rhizomes following corn harvest. (Oct. 2, 2024)

 Cooperative  
Extension Service

# Pest-Proofing Your Home

To prevent pests from entering your home, especially during weather changes, focus on pest-proofing your property.

- Seal entry points: Install door sweeps, seal utility openings, and caulk cracks.
- Repair screens: Fix gaps and tears in window and door screens.
- Prevent wildlife entry: Install wire mesh over vents and consider exterior insecticide treatment.



*Source: Kentucky Pest News  
An Equal Opportunity Organization.*

# Forage Timely Tips: November

- ✓ Apply 30-40 lb N per acre to strengthen cool-season grass sods.
- ✓ Inventory hay and assess hay quality.
- ✓ Using a plate meter or grazing stick, estimate stockpile available for winter grazing.
- ✓ Adjust animal numbers or purchase additional hay to balance forage-feed supply to livestock needs.
- ✓ Graze crop residues and cover crops that will not overwinter. Be careful to avoid fields that contain johnsongrass until after these plants have dried up.
- ✓ Graze winter annuals that will not overwinter such as brassicas and oats.
- ✓ Graze other winter annuals once they are 6-8 inches tall and are well anchored. Do NOT graze closer to 4 inches.
- ✓ Sugar content will rise in tall fescue with the cool temperatures and short days of fall.

## Upcoming Events

### Fall Crop Protection Webinar Series

Nov 12 & 26

For more information contact Katie

### 2024 CPH60 Sale Dates

Dec 5

### UKY Winter Wheat Meeting

Feb 4, 2025

More information to come

### Kentucky Crop Health Conference

Feb 6, 2025

More information to come

### Women in Ag Conference

Mar 14, 2025

Union Co Fairgrounds

More information to come

### Homesteading Conference

Mar 22, 2025

Henderson Expo Center

More information to come

### UKY Wheat Field

May 13, 2025

More information to come



# SEE YOU IN BOWLING GREEN!

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2025

### **AGENDA** All times are CST

- 7:00 a.m. **Early Riser Session with breakfast** Dr. Guilherme Anghinoni
- 8:30 a.m. **Registration & Trade Show Opens**
- 9:30 a.m. **Marketing Session** Matt Bennett
- 11:00 a.m. **Lunch & Keynote** Andrew Pritchard  
*Remarks from Kentucky Ag Commissioner Jonathan Shell*
- 1:00 p.m. **Ky. Soybean Association Annual Meeting**
- 2:00 p.m. **Ky. Corn Growers Association Annual Meeting, Council Report**
- 3:00 p.m. **Ky. Small Grain Growers Association Annual Meeting, Council Report**
- 3:45 p.m. **Deep Dive into Sustainable Aviation Fuel** Paul Bertels
- 6:00 p.m. **Grower Appreciation Reception**
- 6:30 p.m. **Awards Celebration**

### 2025 Speakers

**Dr. Guilherme Anghinoni**, commonly referred to as “Big G,” is a soil and plant nutrition specialist based in Brazil. He holds a PhD in Agronomy, and is interested in soil science and especially in soil physics, management and conservation, as well as efficient and sustainable crops production. Dr. Anghinoni will present a general overview of Brazilian agriculture production regions, production practices, challenges/advantages, markets, and logistics. There will be ample time for questions and answers following his presentation

**Matt Bennett** is a co-founder of AgMarket.Net. He is also a Windsor, Illinois, farmer and former grain elevator owner. He is Channel Seed’s grain marketing consultant and holds a Series 3 brokerage license doing business through AgMarket.Net, Farm Division of JSA. Matt brings the producer perspective to the table, enriched with his extensive grain marketing background. He specializes in formulating risk-management strategies for corn, soybean farmers and livestock producers. Matt’s analysis and commentary on the grain markets appears on various TV and radio stations across the Midwest, including AgDay, U.S. Farm Report, Market to Market, and This Week in Agri-Business. A graduate of University of Illinois, Matt and his wife Tiffany live on the family’s centennial farm north of Windsor, where they are raising their five children. He owns and operates a 3,000-acre corn and soybean farm with his father while raising 60 head of registered Angus cows.

**Andrew Pritchard** is an operational meteorologist focused on disruptive weather and weather safety, and an award winning weather risk communicator. He helps people make decisions based on weather impacts. At Nutrien, he focuses on high-impact, disruptive weather events, weather risk mitigation and severe weather safety. As a member of our Atmospheric Sciences team, he works closely with Nutrien’s Safety Health & Environment department, and helped establish and lead Nutrien’s internal Severe Weather Safety and Disaster Response team by providing modern weather safety training, monitoring weather forecast information and issuing critical weather safety bulletins to the Nutrien retail team before severe weather strikes, and facilitating disaster response after a damaging weather event. Finally, he frequently travels and presents to audiences of 50-1,000 people across North America speaking on severe and hazardous weather and mitigating weather risk in production agriculture. As an independent meteorologist and video journalist, Andrew has spent the last two decades documenting tornadoes and supercell thunderstorms across Tornado Alley.

**Paul Bertels** is a senior agricultural consultant with Farmgate Insights, LLC. Formerly a VP with National Corn Growers Association, Bertels will speak on all things Sustainable Aviation Fuel.

## Election Impacts on Current Ag Committee Members

Dr. Joe Outlaw and Dr. Bart Fischer, Texas A&M University Ag & Food Policy Center

Tuesday's election will bring a significant change to the leadership in Washington D.C., with Republicans taking over leadership of the Senate and former President Trump being re-elected President. As of late Wednesday evening, it appears Republicans will remain in control of the House of Representatives, albeit with a very small majority. Leadership elections over the next couple of months will determine if Chairman Thompson (PA) and Ranking Member Scott (GA) will continue to lead the House Committee on Agriculture. Of the 29 Republican members currently on the committee, only 10 were around to vote on the 2018 Farm Bill (green represents they voted for the 2018 Farm Bill). Eight of 25 Democrat members were around to vote on the 2018 Farm Bill. So, only 18 of 54 members of the committee were around to experience the process and vote for the last farm bill. Most of the current Republican and Democrat members were re-elected on Tuesday with the exceptions of Republican Marc Molinaro (NY) and Democrats Abigail Spanberger (VA) and Elissa Slotkin (MI) who both left to seek other offices.

There is more experience on the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry as 8 of 12 Democrats and 8 of 11 Republicans were around to work on the 2018 Farm Bill, although Senator Grassley (IA) voted against the bill (indicated in red). After Tuesday's election, it is presumed that Senator Boozman (AR) will become Chairman, and the Democrats will select a new ranking member as Chairwoman Stabenow is set to retire at the end of the year. In terms of departures, Senator Braun (IN) is leaving to become the Governor of Indiana, and Senator Brown (OH) was defeated.

What does this mean going forward for the next farm bill? While the House and Senate differ in terms of experience, there should be plenty of motivated and experienced leaders in both the House and Senate to push the farm bill through whether it be before the end of the year or shortly into next year. After all, the need for a better safety net is currently being felt across the entire country.

**House Ag Committee**

Majority		Minority	
Glenn Thompson	PA	David Scott	GA
Frank Lucas	OK	Jim Costa	CA
Austin Scott	GA	Jim McGovern	MA
Rick Crawford	AR	Alma Adams	NC
Scott DesJarlais	TN	Abigail Spanberger	VA
Doug LaMalfa	CA	Jahana Hayes	CT
David Rouzer	NC	Shontel Brown	OH
Trent Kelly	MS	Sharice Davids	KS
Don Bacon	NE	Elissa Slotkin	MI
Mike Bost	IL	Yadira Caraveo	CO
Dusty Johnson	SD	Andrea Salinas	OR
Jim Baird	IN	Marie Gluesenkamp Perez	WA
Tracey Mann	KS	Don Davis	NC
Randy Feenstra	IA	Jill Tokuda	HI
Mary Miller	IL	Nikki Budzinski	IL
Barry Moore	AL	Eric Sorensen	IL
Kat Cammack	FL	Gabe Vasquez	NM
Brad Finstad	MN	Jasmine Crockett	TX
John Rose	TN	Jonathan Jackson	IL
Ronny Jackson	TX	Greg Casar	TX
Marc Molinaro	NY	Chellie Pingree	ME
Monica De La Cruz	TX	Salud Carbajal	CA
Nick Langworthy	NY	Angie Craig	MN
John Duarte	CA	Darren Soto	FL
Zach Nunn	IA	Sanford Bishop	GA
Mark Alford	MO		
Derrick Van Orden	WI		
Lori Chavez-DeRemer	OR		
Max Miller	OH		

**Senate Ag Committee**

Majority		Minority	
Debbie Stabenow	MI	John Boozman	AR
Sherrod Brown	OH	Mitch McConnell	KY
Amy Klobuchar	MN	John Hoeven	ND
Michael Bennet	CO	Joni Ernst	IA
Kirsten Gillibrand	NY	Cindy Hyde-Smith	MS
Tina Smith	MN	Roger Marshall	KS
Richard Durbin	IL	Tommy Tuberville	AL
Cory Booker	NJ	Mike Braun	IN
Ben Ray Lujan	NM	Charles Grassley	IA
Raphael Warnock	GA	John Thune	SD
Peter Welch	VT	Deb Fischer	NE
John Fetterman	PA		

## A Windy Start to Fall

Jane Marie Wix and Philomon Geerston - National Weather Service Jackson, KY

Usually for this time of year we talk about increased winds during the fall season, and wind safety. However, most of the time we aren't referring to high winds due to a hurricane! Hurricane Helene wreaked havoc as it moved inland - all the way north into Kentucky. It's not the first time we've experienced the remnants of a hurricane in this state, and it won't be the last. But, having such high impacts is quite rare. We thought this would be a good time to recap what happened.

The remnants of Hurricane Helene brought widespread wind damage to much of Kentucky on Friday, September 27th. Helene initially made landfall along Florida's Big Bend region during the late evening of Thursday, September 26th as a fast-moving Category 4 hurricane. The hurricane's rapid forward movement did not give the system much time to weaken by the time the system's tropical rain bands spread across eastern Kentucky by early Friday morning. As the dissipating core of the hurricane approached, northeast to easterly winds rapidly intensified across eastern Kentucky between 6 AM and 10 AM EDT. Wind gusts peaked at around 12 PM, ranging from 35 to 60+ mph at most locations. The strongest wind gust in eastern Kentucky, 64 mph, was reported atop Koomer Ridge just west of Campton. The combination of full foliage on the trees, saturated soils, and an atypical wind direction led to many uprooted trees, resulting in blocked roads and extensive power line damage. Isolated instances of structural damage were also observed.

Power outages across the Commonwealth numbered over 200,000 customers, the vast number of which were in eastern Kentucky, by the time the winds had diminished Friday afternoon. Kentucky Power alone reported at least 137 broken power poles and 734 spans of downed wire. Clark Energy reported over a 100 broken poles in their service area. Jackson Energy reported 71 broken power poles and close to 400 spans of downed wire. Power restoration efforts continued for days after the storm, as some customers in the hardest hit locations did not see their power restored until October 3rd. There were also several reports received of trees falling on homes. Fortunately, only 1 injury was reported in the state, due to a tree falling on a home. The winds also put a damper on the festivities at the World Chicken Festival in Laurel County and the Sorghum Festival in Morgan County for most of the day.

On a non-wind note - before the hurricane, weeks of unusually dry weather had led to the development of abnormally dry to severe drought conditions across most of the state. Thus, when a sluggish frontal boundary and upper level low became somewhat stationary over the state earlier in the week (around September 23rd and 24th), the repeated rounds of rainfall were highly beneficial for alleviating the drought. Additional rainfall from Helene, therefore, only led to minor instances of stream and street flooding.

Outside of Helene, one of the last impactful hurricanes that I remember in Kentucky was Hurricane Ike in 2008. The remnants of this hurricane brought sustained strong winds and high wind gusts to western and central Kentucky. Wind gusts ranged from 50–75 mph, with the fastest gust recorded at 75 mph at the Louisville Airport. Louisville also experienced its worst power outage ever, with over 400,000 homes losing power. Sadly, nine souls also lost their lives in this event. Many people in the state called this storm “Dry Ike”, because while it brought high winds, it didn't bring any precipitation with it!

It's been an active hurricane season thus far, especially for those in Florida. While technically hurricane season spans from June 1st until November 30th, most hurricanes form during the months of August, September, and October. As we head into November, hopefully this means hurricane activity is winding down, and we won't experience any more Hurricane Helene-like storms - but we'll have to wait and see.



# Christmas Tree Care



- Before buying your tree, decide where in your home you are going to display the tree. Keep the tree away from direct heat sources such as fireplaces or furnace vents because these may cause the tree to use more water and dry faster. Having an electrical outlet near the tree will eliminate the need to run unsightly extension cords to the tree.
- Before setting up your tree, make a fresh cut at least ½-inch off the trunk to help the tree take up water easier.
- The main characteristics to look for in a tree stand are: • stability (to hold the tree upright) • adequate water capacity • ease of set-up (Thumb screws have been used for years, but can be hard to manage when you are on your hands and knees under the tree tightening the thumb screws and keeping the tree straight all at the same time.)
- Use a tree stand that holds 1-2 gallons of water. The tree needs 1 quart of water per inch of diameter. A cut tree will absorb a surprising amount of water, particularly during the first week, so replenish the water daily. Plain water is best! Never add anything to the water.
- Monitor your tree for dryness. Run your fingers across the needles to determine whether they are dry and brittle. If the needles break easily or fall off in your hand, the tree is dry and should be removed
- Newer LED Christmas lights generate less heat than older types of lighting. Always turn the lights off when the tree is unattended.

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



Disability accommodations with prior notification.



## CARING FOR POINSETTIAS



- Unwrap your poinsettia carefully and place in indirect light. Five to Six hours of light daily is ideal. Keep the plant from touching cold windows.
- Water your poinsettias only when they need water. When potting soil feels dry, water thoroughly until water drains out the bottom of the pot. Remember to empty the water in the saucer.
- Poinsettias love room temperature and do best in temperatures between 60 to 72 degrees. High temperatures will shorten the poinsettia life.
- Recent research has shown that poinsettias are not poisonous, but the plants are intended solely for ornamental purposes. Some people are allergic to the milky sap and may develop a rash when exposed to the sap. Avoid breaking the leaves and stems, as this will release the sap. Poinsettias are not harmful to pets unless the leaves and stems are eaten in very large quantities. It is wise to keep any houseplant out of the reach of small children and pets.
- Poinsettias will last 6-8 weeks in your home, with good care.



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

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



Disability accommodations with prior notification.



# UNION COUNTY



# WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

THE UNION CO EXTENSION OFFICE WANTS TO HIGHLIGHT AGRICULTURE WOMEN IN MARCH FOR WOMEN MONTH! THIS WILL BE THEIR CHANCE TO SHOWCASE THEIR AGRICULTURE LIFESTYLE.

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR THE NOMINATION FORM OR STOP BY THE OFFICE TO PICK UP THE FORM.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT KATIE HUGHES, UNION CO ANR AGENT 270-389-1400 OR [KATIE.N.HUGHES@UKY.EDU](mailto:katie.n.hughes@uky.edu)



Cooperative Extension Service  
Agriculture and Food Systems  
Faculty and Extension Activities  
4-H Youth Development  
Community and Economic Development

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# Union County GRAIN DAYS

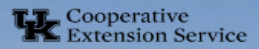
**JANUARY 21, 2025**  
**10AM**

**UNION CO EXTENSION OFFICE**  
(1938 US HWY 60W MORGANFIELD, KY)

Speakers: Dr. Jordan Shockley, UK Ag Eco Specialist and Dr. Edwin Ritchey, UK Soil Specialist

Private Applicator License Training will be done after lunch/county yield contest awards. **You must attend all speakers to do the training.**

Lunch will be provided.  
RSVP by January 15, 2025 to the Union Co Extension Office 270-389-1400.  
For more information contact:  
Katie Hughes, ANR Agent [katie.n.hughes@uky.edu](mailto:katie.n.hughes@uky.edu)



\*\*CAIP-ED APPROVED\*\*

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# FARM FINANCIAL MEETING JANUARY 23, 2025 5:30PM UNION CO EXTENSION OFFICE (1938 US HWY 60W MORGANFIELD KY)

Topics will include: Record-Keeping, Budgeting and Outlook.

Speakers: Suzy Martin, UK Ohio Valley Farm Analysis and Lauren Turley, FarmSperity

**FREE TO ATTEND**

**RSVP BY: JAN 17, 2025 TO THE UNION CO EXTENSION OFFICE 270-389-1400  
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT KATIE HUGHES, ANR AGENT  
KATIE.N.HUGHES@UKY.EDU**

\*\*CAIP-ED Approved\*\*

Cooperative Extension Service  
1938 US HWY 60W Morganfield, KY 40359  
606-778-2222

MARTIN GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT  
1000 University Blvd., Lexington, KY 40506  
606-257-2000



# NRCS/FSA Update Meeting

**JANUARY 28, 2025  
5:30PM**

**UNION CO EXTENSION OFFICE  
(1938 US HWY 60W MORGANFIELD KY)**

COME LEARN ALL ABOUT THE PROGRAMS AND UPDATES FROM THE NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE & FARM SERVICE AGENCY.

AFTERWARDS PRIVATE APPLICATOR LICENSE TRAINING WILL BE DONE.  
(MUST ATTEND WHOLE MEETING TO DO TRAINING)

**FREE TO ATTEND! RSVP BY JANUARY 24, 2025 TO THE UNION CO EXTENSION OFFICE 270-389-1400.  
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT KATIE HUGHES, ANR AGENT KATIE.N.HUGHES@UKY.EDU**

**\*\*CAIP-ED APPROVED\*\***

Cooperative Extension Service  
1938 US HWY 60W Morganfield, KY 40359  
606-778-2222

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1000 University Blvd., Lexington, KY 40506  
606-257-2000





Save the Date

# 23RD ANNUAL UNION COUNTY BULL SALE

**FEB 8, 2025**

**UNION COUNTY EXPO  
CENTER  
STURGIS, KY**

**2024 AVG BULL PRICE:  
\$3,914.06  
32 BULLS SOLD**

**BULLS AND TRADE SHOW WILL  
BE ON DISPLAY 10AM**

**FREE LUNCH SERVED 12PM**

**CAIP EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM**

**12:45PM**

**BULLS WILL SELL 1PM**

**Check out Union County Bull Sale  
Facebook Page for Videos of Bulls and  
More Information or Scan Below**

**Top Selling Bull  
2024**



**\$5,700**



### Contacts

**Dr. Caleb Jenkin, Sale Manager 270-952-0767  
Ben Lloyd, KY Beef Network 270-993-1074  
Katie Hughes, Union Co Extension Agent  
217-891-0947**

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University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Cooperative Extension, Lexington, KY 40506





**Extension Office will be  
Closed:**

Nov 28 & 29, 2024

Dec 25-31, 2024

Jan 1, 2025

Jan 20, 2025



*Katie Hughes*

**Katie Hughes**

**UK-Union Co Extension**

**ANR Agent**

**270-389-1400**

**Katie.n.hughes@uky.edu**



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Union Co Cooperative Extension Service  
1938 US Highway 60 West  
Morganfield, KY 42437-6246

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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