

## Invasive insects, plants having impact on state's woodlands

Health issues of Kentucky's forests were the topic of a virtual conference last month that brought together forestry specialists from three different states, universities, and government agencies.

The 2022 Kentucky Forest Health Conference was hosted by the University of Kentucky and Kentucky Department of Forestry.

Dr. Ellen Crocker, UK Extension forestry health specialist, who moderated the conference, said invasive insects and plants are the overriding threat to Kentucky's woodlands. These predators, coupled with recent storm damage, caused woodlands to take a direct hit in economic value.

Session speakers specifically pointed out the invasive threats and ways to combat their destruction. Several invasive insect species are causing substantial damage to Kentucky woodlands.

Millions of ash trees have been devastated by the Emerald Ash Borer. First reported in 2009, the grub stage of this exotic Asian insect griddles and eventually kills the tree. The insect is moving westward and will ultimately cover the entire state. KDF has developed a treatment guide and is collecting Ash seeds. Landowners can report damage through an applicaiton called Treesnap.

The Asian Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, first reported in 2006, decimated the Eastern Hemlock population by defoliation, killing the trees in 4-10 years. Containing this invasive in the easternmost third of Kentucky's counties uses a two-tiered approach, chemical treatment and biological control.

In 2009, KDF began a treatment program using a systemic insecticide through a soil drench technique and has treated 200,000 trees. A release and recovery program using predatory beetles that feed on the insect shows promise as a biological control.

The Spongy Moth, once known as the Gypsy Moth, is a defoliator and attacks White Oak trees critical to the bourbon industry. An extensive trapping program has shown few Spongy Moths in Kentucky. However, surrounding states have very high numbers. KDF will do a delimiting study with over 5500 traps to keep this invasive insect at bay.

The Spottedlantern Fly, again from Asia, is a distinctive one-and-half-inch long insect, red and black with white spots. It

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A vote screen in the Senate chamber gives details as legislators work to concur on bills.

## Broadband, other bills get ag nod

Over the last week of March, the Kentucky General Assembly passed more than 100 bills in two days as the GOP raced against Gov. Beshear's veto period, which began March 31.

As long as lawmakers got their bills onto the governor's desk by midnight on March 30, Republican supermajorities can override any of those vetoed.

It's a questionable tactic that draws criticism — getting bills in and out of committees within mere hours always means less public scrutiny and less eyes. However, Kentucky Farm Bureau always keeps its eyes on legislation affecting not only agriculture but rural communities, and its officers are happy

about what some of those veto-proof bills mean — especially House Bill 315, which makes some huge strides toward getting rural areas better connected for internet coverage.

"This session, for us, the budget was the most important thing," said Jeff Harper, KFB director of public affairs.

And — Kentucky agriculture did very, very well, he said.

"We were able to maintain our 50 percent for our Ag Development Fund," he said, referring to the allocation of the Master Settlement Agreement funds to the Agricultural Development Board, which falls in at \$41.6 million each fiscal year, with \$14.4 million of that going

to the county fund.

Harper said both diagnostic labs — UK Veterinary Diagnostic Lab and Breathitt Veterinary Center — were funded, with each getting around \$4 million.

"We were able to help get \$9 million in the budget to help facilitate UK's Princeton research center, which was devastated and wiped out by the tornado," in December 2021, Harper said. The funding will be used to support disaster recovery at the Grain and Forage Center of Excellence, and keep it "up and going, on a temporary basis until they can be completely rebuilt, which

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# Broadband funding goes to governor's desk

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will obviously take a lot of time.”

## Getting in line to be online

House Bill 315, Harper said, is the “other big one — the broadband bill. That will appropriate \$250 million to our unserved and underserved areas ...” which took some working, he said. The bill is sponsored by Rep. Brandon Reed (R-Hodgenville). It also allocates \$20 million from the State Fiscal Recovery Fund to be used to replace utility poles for the construction of high-speed networks.

It establishes the Office of Broadband Development, which will be administratively attached to the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority and will be responsible for implementing a state-wide plan, recommending projects and handling funding.

HB 315 will appropriate \$182.8 million from the American Rescue Plan Act's (ARPA) capital projects fund and more than \$67 million from ARPA's state recovery fund into the Broadband

Deployment Fund.

“The creation of the office will help facilitate Kentucky to apply to the federal government for additional broadband dollars, that was part of the federal infrastructure bill that passed last fall,” Harper said. He said every state gets \$100 million from that bill in the fall...“however there's another pot of money the Office of Broadband can apply for.”

The office will score grant applications first based on projects that will help provide broadband to those areas with no service, he said, and then by those in underserved areas.

“When we were in this pandemic, and everything was shut down, there were school children in rural Kentucky trying to get on their Chromebooks or laptops, and they had to drive into the nearest town,” Harper said, which is why KFB provided free internet in its parking lots.

“The other component of this bill — it will allow our rural cooperatives to offer broadband services like that.”

Harper said to keep in mind, “Our

Tennessee Valley Authority (counties), I think there's seven of them, primarily southcentral, on the Tennessee line — they're federally regulated. So they can already offer broadband. But we have

19 others that are regulated by the Public Service Commission.”

The bill allows a distribution coop-

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**Cows:** Breaker 75-80%: 3 Head 1565-1675# 85.00-87.00; Boner 80-85%: 105 Head 1000-1705# 75.00-95.00; 64 Head 1265-1700# 90.00-105.00; 4 Head 1245-1677# 70.00-93.00; Lean 85-90%: 44 Head 800-1234# 54.00-81.00; 8 Head 900-1250# 71.00-77.00; 3 Head 887-1110# 37.00.

**Bulls:** 1-2: 36 Head 1240-2200# 103.00-121.00; 12 Head 1900-2250# 123.00-133.00; 3 Head 1400-2100# 91.00-93.00.

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# Invasive insects, plants having impact on state's woodlands

## FROM PAGE 1

is a planthopper and feeds on over 70 plant species, including grapes, apples, hops, walnut and maple.

The preferred host is the Tree of Heaven, and landowners are encouraged to learn to identify the different stages of the insect and remove the Tree of Heaven from the wood lot. While not in Kentucky, it has been identified in a neighboring Indiana county and travels by laying egg sacs on vehicles. Due to limited inspectors, the public needs to have eyes in the field and notify the state entomologist of any Spotted Lantern Flies.

A relatively new woodland health concern is Laurel Wilt Disease, first documented in 2019, brought in by the redbay ambrosia beetle.

The disease kills sassafras and spicebush trees. The disease is expected to move rapidly across the state from original western Kentucky, located on the Tennessee border. There are very few management options, but KDF is working on fungicide trials earmarked to begin in the spring of 2023.

Invasive plants are increasingly causing damage. The Tree of Heaven and Royal Paulownia are both from China, and both have very high site tolerance, meaning they can grow anywhere, even in sidewalk cracks. Both are prolific seeders and root suckering and highly fast-growing.

With their rapid growing traits, these two species can quickly disrupt a woodland environment when a disturbance such as harvesting, weather damage, or insect damage causes a decrease in tree numbers. Outcompeting native trees and herbaceous plants on these sites degrades biodiversity and ecosystem function. There is a loss of timber revenue when these invasive out-produce the native hardwoods.

Woodland owners are encouraged to learn to identify these trees and use herbicides in either foliar, basal bark, cut stump, or hack and squirt treatments to kill these nonnative invaders.

Managing invasive shrubs and vines depends on their size and the time of year. Hand pulling, foliar sprays, and brush cutters are all options.

The Kentucky Invasive Plant Council offers members the opportunity to learn to identify and control invasive plants.

And then there's the weather. Extreme weather events contributed to woodland health issues. The entire state was affected by a trifecta of ice, floods, and wind in 2021. In February of 2021, eastern Kentucky was hit with a half inch of ice followed by snow. This increased weight was well beyond the threshold that trees can withstand, causing trees to uproot and limbs to break.

Two weeks later, historic flooding hit the state with the most significant rainfall and the most flash flooding to date.

Suffocation from poor aeration, chemical and physical damage to the soil, and limited root function impedes tree growth, leading to secondary attackers and other potential problems and a future decline in affected trees.

A seven-tornado outbreak in December 2021 left trees uprooted, tops broken, main stems snapped, and mangled branches. There was indiscriminate damage to all age classes and species within the tornadoes' paths. KDF is working with landowners to replant trees.

The abiotic conditions of wind, ice, and flooding cause different management decisions for woodlot owners. When assessing the damage after a disruption, owners must think about safety first. Wear protective clothing, don't go into the woods when the wind is blowing, flag or identify dangerous trees, get dangerous trees away from woods, roads and trails, and always look up for branches that could fall.

Speakers recommended that woodlot owners consider what trees to harvest and consult a woodland specialist when making those decisions.

The entire conference can be viewed at: <https://youtu.be/eKFDKAKl1IQ>.

By Toni Riley  
Field Reporter



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# The future of land ownership



## ONE VOICE

**Sharon Burton**  
Publisher

I have noticed recently that any article I read about global warming or food security usually has a brief comment about land ownership.

I get that sensation that I am sure Will Robinson got when he heard his robot yell "Danger, Will Robinson," but I can't exactly put my finger on why I hear the warning alarm.

Land ownership in rural America is a sacred thing. Even here in our rural landscapes, however, we have seen change that many of us are saddened to see.

Locally, we have become a hub for landlords – some of them slumlords – buying up what would have once been starter homes for young couples and have turned them into worn, tired looking rental property.

Some of our prime farmland has been divided into subdivisions and commercial property, and we are beginning to see solar panels taking over spreads of farmland across the state. Other farmland is owned by out-of-state people or others who are not interested in farming, and much of that land is being leased by people who want to make a living on the land.

While many farmers may cringe at what they see going on around them, they also hold steadfast to a long-held belief that landowners decide how to use the land.

As the nation and the world become more concerned about the availability of water and the land needed to produce food, eyes are turning toward any land covered in green.

According to a 2020 report by the Congressional Research Service, the federal government owns around 28 percent of the land in the U.S. That's 640 million of the nation's 2.27 billion acres.

A total of 35.2 million acres of U.S. farmland is owned by federal investors, according to the Center for Strategic and International Studies. Of that total, 4.4 million acres is in Texas, 3.3 million acres in Maine and 1.8 million acres in Alabama. More than 40 percent of the additional 3.4 million acres is located in Texas Oklahoma and Colorado, according to CSIS.

As conversations about global warming continue to turn toward food security, claims that food production is a major cause of future catastrophe will steer federal policy and affect every farmer in America.

SEE **THE FUTURE**, PAGE 5

# There is strength in numbers

Spring is (kind of) here, and that means that farmers are itching to get in the fields. Even though the temperatures are cool and we've had a lot of rain, there's lots to be done in order to get our crops planted. An added task that many have this year is debris removal after the tornadoes that ripped through much of Kentucky back in December. Many homes and businesses were destroyed, and the debris had to land somewhere. Unfortunately, much of it landed on crop land and pasture ground.

I live in Muhlenberg County, and I've seen a number of volunteers walking fields to help farmers with cleanup, and that's just a great thing. Seeing people working together for a common good is always a positive, and it's true that many hands make light work. There is strength in numbers.

As president of the Kentucky Soybean Association, I have to say that numbers are important to me in that role. Membership in the association is different than paying into the checkoff, and those funds are used in very different ways. Checkoff funds cannot, by law, be used for policy efforts. The money for our efforts on your behalf in Frankfort and in Washington, D.C. comes from membership dues and advertising revenue from our association magazine, the Kentucky Soybean Sentinel.

There are a number of benefits to membership, and they are listed in every issue of the Sentinel. They're also available on our website, [kysoy.org](http://kysoy.org), and some of them are pretty sweet. There's a seed coupon equal to your membership dues, which can be redeemed for seed from a number of great brands. Through our partnership with the National Biodiesel Board, association members are eligible for discounts on new vehicles. Association members' children and grandchildren are eligible for scholarship opportunities and advocacy programs, and members get discounted registration for Commodity Classic.

There are other benefits on the list, but I'll be honest: representation in Frankfort and in Washington, D.C. is what I see as the biggest bang for your buck in association membership. During my time on the Kentucky Soybean Association board, I have been part of the delegation sent to D.C. to talk to our national lawmakers, face-to-face, about issues that affect Kentucky soybean farmers. There is nothing else like it. I know that in-person, face-to-face meetings aren't always possible, but just last month I was in D.C. and we met with Congressmen Comer, Massie, Rogers and Guthrie as well as Sen. Paul and Leader McConnell. In addition to these elected officials, we have devel-

SEE **THERE**, PAGE 6



**KENTUCKY SOYBEAN ASSOCIATION**  
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**Brent Gatton**

Seeing people working together for a common good is always a positive, and it's true that many hands make light work. There is strength in numbers.

## The Farmer's Pride

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# The future of land ownership

FROM PAGE 4

An article by Nathan Lobel at the Columbia Center on sustainable Investment quoted a report that agriculture and forestry account for nearly one-quarter of global human-caused greenhouse gas emissions.

He goes on to quote a Guardian article: "It will be impossible to keep global temperatures at safe levels unless there is also a transformation in the way the world produces food and manages land."

I find these words alarming, and not because I take the concerns of future food production lightly. Changes in climate are real. Regardless of the debate of why those changes are taking place, we must acknowledge the need to protect food production for the future of mankind.

As a person with a Christian worldview, I tend to believe the answer lies in 2 Chronicles 7:14: If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Short of that, and considering we seem to be going in the opposite direction, it looks like mankind is going to try to take control of our climate, and that means that all eyes are on any land that is capable of producing food.

On the bright side, if there is one, it's exciting to see the innovation coming from these concerns. We were able to put a man on the moon, surely we can find a way to perfect the use of renewable energy and make the necessary strides needed to save the planet.

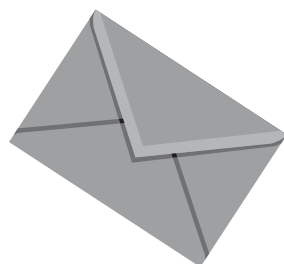
One thing is for sure, the land that is becoming so valued today and in the future is still there because of people like you.

Lobel said it well when he wrote, "These solutions are all necessary, but their rapid mobilization must not sacrifice the land rights of rural communities and families who have [sustainably maintained](#) their lands for generations."

## Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor are welcomed. Letters must include the author's name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Letters should be no longer than 500 words and will be edited for clarity.

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# If futures markets don't work, your markets won't work

Contrary to the woeful baying by Big Agbiz, the United States – and any nation with enough money – will not run out of food this year. This can be said without reservation for two reasons.

First, war or no war, there is no global shortage of wheat, the crop today's Chicken Littles are cluck-cluck clucking about. In the last week of March, numerous sources pointed out that the estimated shortfall in Russian wheat export sales due to its war in Ukraine will be about 7 million metric tons this marketing year.

While that sounds like a lot, 7 million metric tons is, in fact, .9 percent of Russia's staggering 778 million metric tons 2021 wheat crop.

So, no, the loss of less than one percent of any nation's farm production in any commodity will not lead to global famine.

The second reason the world will not run out of wheat is that when properly functioning markets operate in an open, transparent manner, price rations supply and demand. Yes, that can get coldly expensive but it also ensures the global cupboard never really empties.

And that is what happened in the wheat futures market from mid-February to early March as Russia invaded Ukraine. On Feb. 18, a week before the invasion, Chicago May wheat futures prices were \$8.04 per bushel. After three weeks of volatile, war-fueled trading, May futures had soared to over \$12.

On March 8, however, the May contract rocketed to \$13.63 per bushel just as futures trading began that day. Shortly thereafter, something – or someone – hit the market, and May futures fell off the table, down \$2 per bushel. By the close of the bruising session, prices had clawed back to \$12.86 per bushel, or almost exactly where they had finished the day before.

What happened?

No one really knows and, worse, it's likely no one will ever know because the futures markets' key regulator, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission – like many government agencies in the past decade – has given most of its oversight functions to the markets themselves, notes Dr. Steve Suppan of the Institute of Agriculture and Trade Policy in Minneapolis.

In a prescient March 16 post on the IATP website titled, "Wheat futures prices and the war on regulation," Suppan describes the long, anti-oversight game most futures exchanges played with federal watchdogs after post-2008 laws gave regulators greater power to oversee markets.

That fight culminated with a 3-to-2 vote in late 2020 by the five-member board that relinquished "nearly all CFTC authority to the exchanges..." One of the two dissenters on the panel, Suppan notes, said the shift made "the players on the field the referees." "In this arena," however, "the public interest loses."

It's hard for the public to see that because futures markets appear to be arcane exchanges where cab drivers become millionaires by buying soybean futures. Not so-ever.

U.S. futures exchanges are a \$610 trillion a year marketplace where speculators – traders looking to profit – and hedgers, usually buyers and sellers of products or derivatives of products traded on the exchange, meet to establish price based on key ingredients like supply, demand, weather, and war.

And they are critically important in our everyday lives: If the markets don't function fairly, everyone pays – from the trader who was clipped on some shady deal to the single mother of five struggling to pay the weekly grocery tab.

Farmers and ranchers know this. In fact, today's volatile wheat market means some rural grain purchasers only buy farmers' grain when the Chicago futures market is open so the buyer can immediately transfer their ownership risk to someone else.

That also means these purchasers don't offer any farmer a market after 1:15 p.m. each weekday and not at all on the weekend. Almost every farmer or rancher will tell you that this is a highly risky, potentially costly failure to both you and them.

So, no, we're not going to run out of food. The real threat is that we'll run out of markets we can trust.



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**Alan  
Guebert**

So, no, the loss of less than one percent of any nation's farm production in any commodity will not lead to global famine.

**ALAN GUEBERT**

publishes a weekly column Farm and Food File through the U.S. and Canada. Past columns, events and contact information are posted at [farmandfoodfile.com](http://farmandfoodfile.com). Contact Alan Guebert by email at [agcomm@farmandfoodfile.com](mailto:agcomm@farmandfoodfile.com).

# There is strength in numbers

FROM PAGE 4

oped relationships with their key staff members.

What does that mean to our Kentucky Soybean Association members? They know the Kentucky Soybean Association on Capitol Hill. We have, in many cases, direct phone numbers. And they have ours. We have a monthly call with Leader McConnell's office. In policy, access is important, and we have access to those who make the laws. During our March visits, we talked about input costs and just how the high prices are impacting our family farms. We talked about rural broadband, connectivity, and infrastructure.

And it's important to me that the "we" from the Kentucky Soybean Association that talked to our lawmakers was made up of farmers. "We" included Caleb Ragland, Fred L. Sipes, Gerry Hayden, Clay Wells and

me, along with Becky Kinder from our office staff. We talked to the lawmakers about the issues that impact us...and you.

I know it's spring planting and I know you're busy. But as much time, money and effort as you are investing in this year's crop, I think it's just as important to invest in your voice on policy matters. For as little as \$60 a year, you can be a KSA member. \$150 gets you a three-year membership, and for \$750 you'll be a lifetime member and you won't ever have to keep up with your dues again. You can call the office at 270-365-7214 and one of our staff members will be happy to take your card number over the phone. There's a link to join on our website, KySoy.org. You can send a check to KSA at P.O. Box 30 in Princeton, KY 42445, or point your cell phone camera at the QR code and it will take you directly to the American Soybean Association's membership system, where you can join both associations today.

Your membership matters, and we are stronger together. Join KSA today, and tell them Brent sent you.

**BRENT GATTON** is the president of the Kentucky Soybean Association.



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# Ky. soybean producers add energy issue to national resolutions

Commodity Classic, the annual national meeting of the American Soybean Association, National Corn Growers Association, National Association of Wheat Growers, and National Sorghum Producers, was held March 10-12 in New Orleans.

Farmer-leaders from Kentucky were busy with a variety of meetings in addition to attending the general session, which featured Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack.

They also attended the American Soybean Association's voting delegates session, during which Kentucky was able to have an amendment that addresses domestic energy production projects (including industrial solar) added to the ASA resolutions.

The resolution was submitted early in the process and revised by a resolutions subcommittee prior to the voting delegates session and reads: ASA supports domestic production investments (i.e. solar, wind, pipelines) on private undeveloped land, provided that a) any incentives prioritize energy development on marginal land rather than productive farmland acres, and b) that energy developers, not private land-owners, taxpayers, or communities are responsible for the costs of decommissioning and full remediation at the end of the project's physical or economic lifespan and/or ensuring cleanup from a natural disaster.

ASA encourages the federal government to consider minimum performance and reclamation bonding requirements for domestic energy production projects (i.e. solar, wind) receiving federal investment on private land that account for environmental liabilities including removal of hazardous waste or substances, decommissioning and disposal of improvements or facilities, and interim and final reclamation, revegetation, and/or soil stabilization.

While there were several opportunities for group meetings, including one with Corteva's Crop Protection leadership, individual farmers also had a number of responsibilities.

Gerry Hayden, of Calhoun, had invested a great deal of time in this convention prior to its opening, as he served as the ASA Classic chairman.

Hayden also serves as chairman of the World Initiative for Soy in Human Health, which serves as U.S. soy's catalyst in emerging markets. WISHH

connects trade and development across global market systems, including food security. Hayden was featured on a

breakfast panel, speaking on the trade and market development portion of WISHH's mission.

Caleb Ragland's schedule was also packed. One of Kentucky's three ASA SEE **FARMER'S**, PAGE 15

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## THE FARMER'S PRIDE

## Pecan Pork Chops

1 cup pecans  
 ½ cup panko bread crumbs  
 2 tablespoons cornstarch  
 2 pounds thick-cut pork chops  
 ½ teaspoon Italian seasoning  
 ½ teaspoon garlic salt  
 ½ teaspoon ground black pepper  
 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard  
 1 tablespoon honey  
 2 tablespoons unsalted butter  
 2 tablespoons canola oil

Pulse pecans in a food processor until they resemble crumbs. Transfer to a shallow dish; add panko and cornstarch. Stir to blend.

Season pork chops with Italian seasoning, garlic salt, and pepper. Coat both sides with Dijon mustard and honey. Add pork chops to the pecan mixture, one at a time, pressing with your fingertips to help the coating stick. Shake off any excess and transfer to a lined baking sheet.

Preheat a large saute pan over medium heat for 2 to 3 minutes. Place butter and oil in the pan, then add pork. Cook for 4 to 5 minutes per side. An instant-read thermometer inserted into the center should read 145 degrees F for medium. Let rest for 5 minutes before serving.



## Broccoli-Cheese Casserole



Recipes courtesy of [allrecipes.com](http://allrecipes.com)

1 (10.75 ounce) can condensed cream of mushroom soup  
 1 cup mayonnaise  
 1 egg, beaten  
 ¼ cup onions, chopped  
 3 (10 ounce) packages frozen chopped broccoli  
 8 ounces shredded sharp Cheddar cheese  
 salt and pepper to taste  
 1 dash paprika

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Butter a 9x13 inch baking dish.

In a medium mixing bowl, whisk together condensed soup, mayonnaise, egg and onions.

Place frozen broccoli into a very large mixing bowl. (I like to use my large stainless steel bowl to mix this recipe thoroughly.) Break up the frozen broccoli. Using a rubber spatula, scrape soup-mayonnaise mixture on top of broccoli, and mix well. Sprinkle on cheese, and mix well. Spread mixture into prepared baking dish, and smooth top of casserole. Season with salt, pepper and paprika.

Bake for 45 minutes to 1 hour.

## Apple Cinnamon Chimichangas

1 (21 ounce) can apple pie filling  
 ½ cup cinnamon sugar  
 15 (6 inch) flour tortillas  
 oil for frying

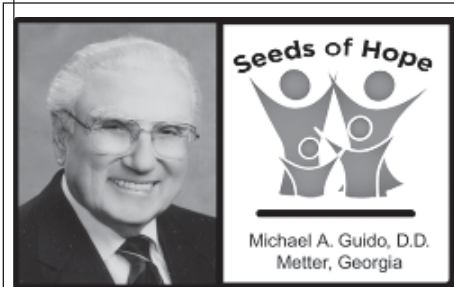
Heat apple pie filling in a small pot over medium-low heat until warmed through, about 5 minutes.

Place cinnamon sugar in a shallow dish.

Spoon 1 1/2 tablespoons of filling onto each tortilla. Fold in opposing edges and roll up as you would a burrito.

Heat oil in a large, deep saucepan over medium heat.

Place a batch of rolled tortillas seam-side down in the hot oil and fry until browned and crispy, 1 to 2 minutes. Turn and continue frying until all sides are browned, 1 to 2 minutes more. Roll in cinnamon sugar to coat. Repeat with remaining batches.



## Help wanted now!

One might imagine that a king, especially one like King David, had everything he wanted, and every problem solved every day of his life. But that image is incorrect according to Psalm 141. David appears to be in trouble.

Hear his cry: "O, Lord, I call to You, come quickly to me; hear my voice when I call to You. May my prayer be set before You like incense."

David was not hesitant to request and receive an immediate audience with God. "I call to You...so...hear my voice." There was no doubt about God's availability or that someone would be ahead of him for one reason or another waiting for an audience with God. God is always available to hear our voice and attend to our needs whenever we call on Him at any time from anyplace.

David also knew that there was nothing or no one that could stop God from helping him. "Come quickly to me." No doubt he had gone to others for help, and they were either unable or unwilling to help him. His situation was critical, and he needed God's assistance immediately. He had turned to others with no results. Now it was time for him to turn to God.

David was also aware of God's acceptance of him and his needs. "May my prayer be set before You." He did not doubt that God was there for him. He was not afraid that his concerns would embarrass God or surprise God or be of no interest to God or be beyond God's power. He knew that whatever he needed would get God's attention!

**Prayer:** How blessed we are, Father, to know that we all have equal standing before You and every need is acceptable. Thank You for Your attention. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

**Scripture For Today:** I call to you, Lord, come quickly to me; hear me when I call to you. May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice. Psalm 141:1-2

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# Eastern tent caterpillars hatching underway

Eastern tent caterpillars have begun to hatch, with the first detections in southern Kentucky in late March.

According to entomologists in the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, the caterpillars, which can cause foal losses, are expected in central and Northern Kentucky at any time now.

After spending about nine months as eggs in masses on twigs of wild cherry and related trees, the first tiny eastern tent caterpillars of the season are now leaving their eggs said Jonathan Larson, UK extension entomologist. The egg hatch normally occurs at 50 percent bloom of forsythia, the interval between first and full bloom of the common spring-blooming plant. The larvae are among spring's first active insects and are well-equipped to cope with Kentucky's erratic tem-

perature swings. Egg hatch occurs over several weeks in early spring. This increases the chance for survival in case of late freezes. The caterpillars grow and develop when the temperature is above 37 degrees F. Their preferred food plants are wild cherry, apple and crabapple, but they may appear on hawthorn, maple, cherry, peach, pear and

plum as well.

When mature, the 2- to 2.5-inch long, hairy caterpillars have a habit of wandering from their host trees to seek protected areas to spin their cocoons, or to seek additional food if their natal tree becomes defoliated. At such times, they may crawl

SEE EASTERN, PAGE 10



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# Eastern tent caterpillars hatching underway

FROM PAGE 9

along fence lines and into pastures.

Consumption of large numbers of caterpillars by pregnant mares caused staggering foal losses in the Mare Reproductive Loss Syndrome outbreak of 1999-2001. MRLS can cause early- and late-term foal losses or weak foals. UK researchers conducted studies that revealed horses will inadvertently eat the caterpillars when present in pastures and feedstuffs. It is the caterpillar hairs, specifically the cuticles of those hairs, that embed into the lining of the horse's alimentary tract. Once that protective barrier is breached, normal alimentary tract bacteria may gain access to and reproduce in sites with reduced immunity, such as the fetus and placenta.

If practical, farm managers should

move pregnant mares from areas where wild cherry trees are abundant to minimize the chance of caterpillar exposure. The threat is greatest when the mature caterpillars leave trees and wander to find places to pupate and transform to the moth stage.

Eastern tent caterpillars are also a nuisance to people living near heavily infested trees. The nests and defoliation are unsightly, and the caterpillars may wander hundreds of yards in search of protected sites to spin cocoons and pupate.

"Managing ETC in small ornamental trees, such as flowering crabapples, is easy," said Daniel Potter, UK entomology professor "Just wear a pair of grocery store plastic bags like mittens, climb a stepladder, pull out the tents, turn the bags inside out to 'bag' the caterpillars and stomp them. Pruning

out nests in ornamental trees sounds great, but in reality, by the time they are noticed, they're often in branch crotches where pruning will compromise the symmetry of the tree.

"Spraying the flowering fruit and decorative trees preferred by the caterpillars can be a bee hazard – and with some products, a label violation – because the trees are in bloom with bees visiting them at the same time eastern tent caterpillars are active," he said.

According to Potter, caterpillar management around horse farm paddocks comes down to keeping pregnant mares away from infested trees and either removing or not planting preferred host trees near paddocks. Additionally, controlling the caterpillars with insecticides may be warranted in some settings. That may require treating tall

trees that are difficult to spray.

For the latter scenario, professional arborists treat via trunk injection. Products labeled for eastern tent caterpillar control include Tree-age and TreeMec (emamectin benzoate), Inject-A-Cide B (Bidrin), Abacide 2 (abamectin) and Lepitect (acephate). Applicators should read and follow all label instructions. All of the aforementioned injectable products are labeled for use on horse farms.

For farms that are interested in prevention over the winter months, Larson recommended farms search for and destroy egg masses before they hatch.

"Egg masses can be seen over the winter, they look like sparkly, pyrite gum wrapped around twigs and branches," he said.

By Holly Wiemers

University of Kentucky



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September 10, 2022  
**Ladies Day - 2022**

November 12, 2022  
**60th Annual Fall Female Sale**

January 21, 2023  
**59th Annual Winter Sale**



# Bills move to governor's desk

FROM PAGE 2

erative affiliate to offer broadband services without the requirement of a certificate of public convenience and necessity through the PSC.

"If we get to the hill and the hollers, it will be our rural cooperatives that do this, so this grant money will help them," Harper said. "As an organization, we understand that it's more profitable to run broadband to a big subdivision than it is to rural areas, where there's fewer homes grouped together, so the money in this bill will offset some of those costs."

"We've got technology in this equipment now that is unbelievable," Eddie Melton said. He's been with KFB since the 1980s and is now first vice president, but has always been a farmer first. He has a traditional grain farm in Webster County, raising corn, soybeans, wheat and some beef cattle.

He said sure, farmers have administrative tasks they need to do online, but

to keep in mind how far things have actually advanced in the fields.

"One thing is we have auto-steer on our tractors," he said, referring to a guidance system, working through connections with satellites. There's different grades of services, he said.

Melton said they also work off equipment showing the variable rate of planting.

"Or when we're spraying through a field, it turns sections of the booms off — all that has to be programmed in, and it keeps up with the data, like yield data, fertilizer application ..."

There's even a part of an app he uses which allows him to see what's going on in real time with the planter.

"The technology on our farms is getting more and more advanced. It's really exciting and a lot of people are embracing it — it does make us more efficient," Melton said. But only if farmers have the capability through broadband.

"We hear about it all the time," Har-

er said, referring to the lack of broadband coverage. He said it affects all aspects of farming.

"Just think about the growth we've seen in these on-farm markets, how the local food movement is growing. These days, very few people carry cash, and you have to have the internet to run a credit card," Harper said, and that this

is just one example.

"That doesn't even take into consideration all the GPS farmers use when preparing for crops, checking markets for their grain prices," he said. "Really, all aspects of farming utilize broadband and the internet."

By Bobbie Curd  
Field reporter

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# Not harvesting hay may be the best option

## The Forage Doctor

By Jimmy Henning



I have had more than one conversation with a producer that ended with radically different plans for fertilizing and haymaking this spring. In at least one case, the best course was not to fertilize and not to cut hay for the 2022 growing season. So when is doing nothing justified? If you don't fertilize to make hay, how should those fields be managed? Here are a few thoughts.

Consider this scenario: A producer normally fertilizes his hay fields with nitrogen and some phosphorus and potassium for grass hay production. The farm owner does not have cows and sells all the hay produced for about \$50 per 1000 lb roll. The buyer is not able or willing to pay an additional premium this year even though this producer has experienced much higher costs of production, such as those asso-

ciated with fertilizer and fuel. This producer asked, 'What should I do?'

This producer would normally apply 80-30-100 in nitrogen, phosphorus (P2O5) and potassium (K2O). At current prices, his fertilizer bill would be \$158 per acre (N at \$1/lb, P2O5 and K2O at \$0.60/lb) plus spreading costs. Normally, these fields would produce four rolls of hay per acre. The revenue from the sale of four bales would be \$200 per acre. Subtracting the fertilizer bill of \$158 leaves \$42 per acre to pay all other bills.

Consider the fertility leaving the farm in that hay. Estimates of the nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium in a ton of hay come to about \$90 (assuming 45 lb of nitrogen, 15 lb of phosphorus and 55 lb of potassium). For 1,000 lb rolls, the hay buyer is getting \$45 of fertilizer value and the cattle nutrition of the hay for \$50. This is great for the buyer but terrible for the seller.

In this scenario, I actually told the producer that he might be dollars ahead (lose less money) if he did not make hay for sale this year. I could tell at the



end of the conversation that he was finding this a difficult path to choose. Forty two dollars after fertilization does not leave much to cover diesel alone much less return something for labor.

On the flip side, here are some thoughts that might make some hay production the right decision this year:

1. Just apply nitrogen and reduce the levels of phosphorus and potassium. This solution runs the risk of lowering available P and K in hayfields, hoping that lower prices in the future will allow replenishing these nutrients.

2. Apply no fertilizer and harvest a

SEE **NOT**, PAGE 13

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# Not harvesting hay may be the best option

FROM PAGE 12

half yield of grass hay. This scenario also depletes P and K in the soil.

3. You need to grow hay to keep the customer. Good hay customers are hard to find and some loss in the short run may be advisable to keep the buyer. It is a difficult decision deliberately choose to absorb much in financial loss to keep a customer.

4. You must have hay to take care of on-farm needs.

Finally, if the decision is made to not make hay, how should hay fields be managed? Idle hayfields will still need to be clipped twice annually to keep the grass stand thick and vigorous for

future years. Clip as in May after seed-heads have fully emerged and again in September. Clipping heights should be as high as possible (six to eight inches).

The current price scenarios are making it very difficult for hay producers to be profitable in 2022. Some scenarios even call into question whether it is profitable or even advisable to fertilize and make hay as in past years. Take a good look at the reasons for hay-making, the costs and returns as well as available alternatives. As crazy as it sounds, the right answer may be to not make hay. Whatever you do, make an informed decision. Who's ready for 2022 to be over? Count me in.

Happy foraging.

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# Ky. soybean producers add energy issue to national resolutions

FROM PAGE 1

directors, Ragland, of Magnolia, currently serves as secretary of the national organization, which comes with a number of responsibilities.

Fred L. Sipes, of Ekron, was the subject of a number of media interviews, along with helping to staff the ASA trade show exhibit. He also attended the U.S. Meat Export Federation meeting and the Waterways Council meeting. Numerous other farmer-leaders attended a wide variety of meetings, and several Kentucky farmers were recognized for their leadership development activities during the Ag Leader Source Awards Breakfast.

Allen Pace and Jonathan Miller were busy with all things Soy Transportation Coalition as the organization (which Miller chairs) hosted both a meeting and a tour of the Port of New Orleans, the destination for many of Kentucky's soybeans that are earmarked for the

export market. Ryan Bivens and Keith Tapp learned more about renewable diesel with a tour of Diamond Green Diesel refinery in nearby Norco, Louisiana. This joint venture between Darling Ingredients and Valero is on track to produce 1.2 billion gallons of low-carbon renewable diesel fuel in 2023.

Commodity Classic also marks the second session of ASA/Corteva Young Leader training. Paige and Daniel Adams of Eddyville and Amanda and Matt Gajdzik of Shelbyville were among some of the nation's best and brightest young farmers who were chosen to participate in this concentrated leadership

development program.

Commodity Classic is America's largest farmer-led, farmer-focused agricultural and educational experience. If you missed out this year, be sure and mark your calendar for March 9-11, 2023 when Classic is scheduled for Orlando, Fla.

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40 Heifers**

**5 - 2 year old bulls**



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4350 Louisville Road  
Bowling Green, KY 42101**

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <b>Blue Grass South</b><br>Stanford, KY<br>Mar. 10, 2022<br><b>Feeder Steers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2<br>74 hd. 703# 153.00 charx<br>80 hd. 704# 140.00 blk<br>59 hd. 869# 144.25 blk<br><b>Feeder Heifers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2<br>27 hd. 5103 149.00 blk<br>20 hd. 755# 118.25 blk<br>25 hd. 777# 123.25 blk | <b>Blue Grass East</b><br>Mt. Sterling, KY<br>Mar. 9, 2022<br><b>Feeder Steers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2<br>32 hd. 610# 170.50 blk-charx<br><b>Feeder Heifers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2<br>85 hd. 636# 150.25 blk-charx                                   | <b>Blue Grass Stockyards</b><br>Lexington, KY<br>Mar. 8, 2022<br><b>Feeder Heifers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2<br>74 hd. 720# 144.00 blk-charx<br>30 hd. 748# 142.00 charx-blk  | <b>Paris Stockyards</b><br>Paris, KY<br>Mar. 10, 2022<br><b>Feeder Steers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2<br>49 hd. 697# 147.25 blk<br>29 hd. 715# 143.00 blk-charx<br>46 hd. 753# 142.00 mixed<br><b>Feeder Heifers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2<br>26 hd. 593# 147.75 blk-charx<br>43 hd. 647# 140.00 blk<br>29 hd. 777# 132.25 mixed                        |
| <b>Blue Grass of Campbellsville</b><br>Campbellsville, KY<br>Mar. 9, 2022<br><b>Feeder Steers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2<br>23 hd. 728# 140.50 mixed<br>25 hd. 846# 137.25 blk<br><b>Feeder Heifers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2<br>21 hd. 590# 145.25 blk<br>28 hd. 821# 128.50 blk                                    | <b>United Producers Owenton</b><br>Owenton, KY<br>Mar. 9, 2022<br><b>Feeder Heifers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2<br>22 hd. 913# 121.75 blk   | <b>Blue Grass of Albany</b><br>Albany, KY<br>Mar. 9, 2022<br><b>Feeder Steers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2<br>40 hd. 814# 143.00 blk<br><b>Feeder Bulls:</b> Medium & Large 1-2<br>59 hd. 433# 172.00 blk-red<br>57 hd. 550# 158.50 blk<br><b>Feeder Heifers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2<br>24 hd. 389# 162.00 blk-red<br>78 hd. 455# 165.25 blk<br>22 hd. 537# 131.00 mixed<br>63 hd. 522# 154.75 blk<br>31 hd. 705# 131.50 blk<br>47 hd. 769# 131.25 blk | <b>Blue Grass of Richmond</b><br>Richmond, KY<br>Mar. 11, 2022<br><b>Feeder Steers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2<br>25 hd. 482# 171.00 blk<br>32 hd. 633# 168.00 blk-bwf<br><b>Feeder Heifers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2<br>25 hd. 602# 142.00 blk-bwf   |
| <b>Farmers Livestock</b><br>Glasgow, KY<br>Mar. 7, 2022<br><b>Feeder Bulls:</b> Medium & Large 1-2<br>26 hd. 363# 186.00 blk  | <b>Blue Grass Maysville</b><br>Maysville, KY<br>Mar. 8, 2022<br><b>Feeder Steers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2<br>28 hd. 693# 148.25 blk-charx<br><b>Feeder Heifers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2<br>31 hd. 639# 148.25 blk-charx<br>44 hd. 643# 152.75 blk-charx | <b>Russell County Stockyards</b><br>Russell Springs, KY<br>Mar. 9, 2022<br><b>Feeder Steers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2<br>61 hd. 864# 141.75 blk-charx<br><b>Feeder Heifers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2<br>63 hd. 768# 132.00 blk-bwf  | <b>Washington Co. Livestock</b><br>Springfield, KY<br>Mar. 7, 2022<br><b>Feeder Steers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2<br>21 hd. 572# 183.50 blk<br>20 hd. 698# 159.25 blk<br>34 hd. 761# 148.50 blk<br>22 hd. 804# 139.00 blk<br>23 hd. 820# 142.25 blk<br><b>Feeder Heifers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2<br>32 hd. 432# 167.00 blk<br>30 hd. 727# 136.00 blk |
| <b>Mid-KY Livestock Market</b><br>Upton, KY<br>Mar. 8, 2022<br><b>Feeder Steers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2<br>27 hd. 848# 140.00 blk   |   | <b>United Producers Irvington</b><br>Irvington, Ky<br>Mar. 7, 2022<br><b>Feeder Steers:</b> Medium & Large 1-2<br>66 hd. 770# 149.00 mixed  |   |

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**NORTHERN KENTUCKY AREA:** Silver Grove at Cincinnati; **PURCHASE AREA:** Clinton & Mayfield.  
 Opening bids at elevators and processing plants.

**Eastern Cornbelt Ethanol  
 Plant Report  
 03/11/2022  
 Indiana Ohio Illinois**

Yellow Corn Spot Bid 6.96-7.56

Dried Distillers Grain (\$/ton)  
10% moisture 255.00-280.00Modified Wet Distillers (\$/ton)  
50-55% moisture 110.00
**Kentucky Weekly Cattle  
 Receipts as reported at local  
 markets:**

|          |        |
|----------|--------|
| 02/19/22 | 24,067 |
| 02/26/22 | 16,678 |
| 03/05/22 | 17,820 |
| 03/12/22 | 15,957 |

**03/14/2021 4:00 pm est**  
**Bids for next day**  
**Cash Bids**  
 Corn #2 Yellow  
 Corn #2 White  
 Soybeans #1 Y  
 Wheat #2 SRW  
 Barley

| Louisville  | Pennyrile                | Purchase          | Bluegrass   | Green River | Northern KY |
|-------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 7.12-7.35   | 7.33-7.43<br>8.08        | 7.18-7.28         | 6.23        | 6.28        | 7.31        |
| 16.50<br>NA | 16.51-16.52<br>9.10-9.16 | 16.51-16.52<br>NA | 15.97<br>NA | 16.46<br>NA | 16.69<br>NA |

**New Crop Delivery Contract**

Corn #2 Yellow  
 Corn #2 White  
 Soybeans #1 Y  
 Wheat #2 SRW  
 Barley

|               |                          |                   |          |               |                |
|---------------|--------------------------|-------------------|----------|---------------|----------------|
| 6.23          | 6.23-6.38<br>7.13        | 6.13-6.23         | NA       | 6.33          | 6.23           |
| 14.14<br>9.54 | 14.41-14.56<br>8.90-9.10 | 14.61-14.66<br>NA | NA<br>NA | 14.56<br>9.28 | 14.65<br>10.80 |

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 Weekly Feed  
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**03/11/2022**

**Memphis  
 Weekly Feed  
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**03/11/2022**

**Corn Belt  
 Feedstuffs  
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**03/11/2022**

**Daily Direct Hog  
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**Producers Livestock Sheep and Goat Auction , San Angelo, Texas March 9, 2022**

Compared to last week slaughter lambs 10.00-20.00 lower. Slaughter ewes 5.00-15.00 lower. Feeder lambs not well tested. Nannies 5.00-10.00 lower; kids steady. Trading and demand moderate.

SLAUGHTER LAMBS WOOLLED & SHORN: Choice and Prime 1-2 60-64 lbs 356.00-366.00; 71 lbs 350.00; 85-89 lbs 310.00-316.00; 93-98 lbs 306.00-308.00; 106 lbs 290.00. Choice and Prime 2-3 120-146 lbs 200.00-232.00; 154-185 lbs 190.00-218.00. Choice 1-2 60-68 lbs 340.00-348.00; 88 lbs 300.00. HAIR BREEDS: Choice and Prime 1-2 42-49 lbs 372.00-400.00; 50-59 lbs 364.00-392.00; 60-69 lbs 347.00-380.00; 70-77 lbs 340.00-366.00; 81-89 lbs 310.00-370.00; 90-99 lbs 298.00-338.00; 103 lbs 330.00. Choice and Prime 2-3 115-128 lbs 235.00-288.00. Choice 1-2 47 lbs 360.00; 50-59 lbs 354.00-370.00; 62-69 lbs 336.00-360.00; 70-78 lbs 330.00-350.00; 80-89 lbs 280.00-325.00; 100-108 lbs 270.00-292.00. Good 1 67 lbs 316.00. SLAUGHTER GOATS KIDS: Selection 1 40-49 lbs 440.00-470.00; 50-58 lbs 445.00-470.00; 60-68 lbs 400.00-435.00; 80-86 lbs 320.00-355.00; 103-105 lbs 310.00-320.00. Selection 1-2 42-48 lbs 420.00-425.00; 50-59 lbs 400.00-440.00; 63-66 lbs 360.00-386.00; 70-76 lbs 355.00-415.00; 88 lbs 285.00. Selection 2 48-49 lbs 370.00; 55-59 lbs 310.00-360.00; 65-68 lbs 340.00-345.00; 70-76 lbs 310.00-355.00.

**United Producers Inc. Graded Sheep/Goat Sale - Bowling Green, Ky. March 10, 2022**

575 receipts 575 graded animals

Light Lamb prices were down slightly, mid and heavy weight lambs sold strong, kids remain strong with high good demand.

SLAUGHTER LAMBS WOOLLED: Choice and Prime 1-2 53 lbs 380.00; 64 lbs 382.50; 84 lbs 352.50; 95 lbs 290.00; 100 lbs 290.00.

HAIR BREEDS: Choice and Prime 1-2 55 lbs 360.00; 72 lbs 352.50; 87 lbs 345.00.

Choice 2 50 lbs 340.00; 70 lbs 320.00. Good and Choice 2-3 50 lbs 340.00; 72 lbs 330.00.

SLAUGHTER GOATS KIDS: Selection 1-2 54 lbs 440.00; 66 lbs 400.00; 80-81 lbs 340.00-355.00; 133 lbs 265.00. Selection 2 65 lbs 320.00; 75 lbs 300.00; 81 lbs 360.00. Selection 2-3 50-56 lbs 320.00-330.00; 98 lbs 275.00. Selection 3 52 lbs 370.00; 75 lbs 300.00.

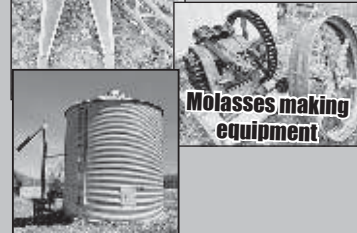
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|-------------|---------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Mixed Grass | 3.62-5.50     | 50.00-80.00                    |                        | 35.00-75.00 |
| Alfalfa     | 5.00          | 130.00                         |                        |             |
| Straw       | 2.85          | 51.00                          |                        | 41.00       |

Price per bale unless noted.

**03/11/2022 USDA Carlot Meat Summary**, Compared to Previous Day Prices in dollars per hundred weight: Boxed beef cutout prices trended up on Choice and Select carcasses.

NATIONAL BOXED BEEF CUTOUT LM\_XB403 Estimated composite cutout value of Choice 1-3 600-900 lbs carcasses up 0.77 at 254.71; Select 1-3 600-900 lbs carcasses up 1.74 at 249.11; based on 59 loads of choice cuts, 10 loads of select cuts, 6 loads of trimmings, and 22 loads of ground beef. Choice/Select Spread 5.60

CARCASS PRICE EQUIVALENT INDEX VALUE NW\_LS410 [https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/nw\\_ls410.txt](https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/nw_ls410.txt). Estimated carcass price equivalent value of Choice 1-3 600-900 lbs carcasses up 0.18 at 222.46; Select 1-3 600-900 lbs carcasses up 0.66 at 215.46.

Current index reflects the equivalent of 125,700 head of cattle.

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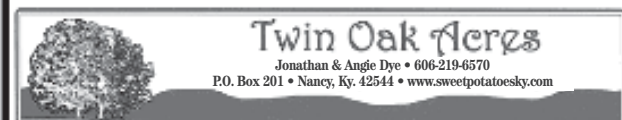
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## ROOT FOR U.S. SOYBEANS

Hog farmers around the world are taking advantage of the many benefits U.S. soybeans offers as a feed ingredient. Soybean meal is high in protein content and offers a well-balanced amino acid profile, and a recent study found that the health benefits of soybean meal are pronounced when swine experience respiratory challenges. U.S. soybeans provides a feed ingredient that keeps hogs healthy and productive.

## BEEFING UP WITH U.S. SOYBEANS

Beef cattle may not be the largest consumer of soy, but U.S. soybeans does have an important role. With both soybean meal and whole soybeans being options for beef cattle diets, research from the soy checkoff found that U.S. beef operations use over 1.3 million tons of soybean meal every year. That's the meal from about 55 million bushels of U.S. soybeans, providing vital protein and amino acids.



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