

## Organic farmer offers same-day produce

FRANKFORT – It's spring, and most farm crops are just being planted or are emerging from the soil. But not every crop. Organic farmer Tony Silvernail harvests his crops from late fall through early winter and then again from February through June.

Silvernail raises several organic varieties of organic greens, including arugula, spinach, kale, and several lettuces and cole crops in high tunnels.

Silvernail, a native of Michigan, grew to love Kentucky when as an undergraduate student at Michigan State in 1990 he volunteered for Glenmary Home Missions working in eastern Kentucky. He settled in Kentucky in 1993.

Silvernail can remember precisely when he started growing organically.

"It was 1999, we had a big garden, and our first two children were babies. They were eating, and I had just sprayed, and a light bulb went off – why am I going this – there has to be a better way."

He began working for Kentucky State University in 1993 and was instrumental in getting the college's first grant to research the production of organics. He continued working for KSU until 2017.

In 1994 he attended the National Horticultural Conference, and organics became a part of the organization. While he likes to think he was one of the earliest organic producers in Kentucky, he does credit Elmwood Stock Farm for being the "Godfather" of organic production.

Beyond the Bridge farm began production in 2007 with one high tunnel. The name came from telling customers about the farm's location.

"We were in the northern part of Franklin County," Silvernail recalled. Just past the Switzer Bridge, my wife would say, "We're just beyond the bridge."

The name stuck even when they moved to Bridgeport.

His first years were a trial and error, which he described as a total spitball. He had to determine what crops he could grow and what were profitable, and he settled on the current combination of greens and brassica plants.

Silvernail said they realized that farmers' markets were not their forte - that type of sales didn't fit their personality. He focused on direct sales, including Good Foods Co-op, restaurants, and local customers. But when Covid-19 affected businesses, Silvernail



Tony Silvernail and son Jacob harvest produce from four high tunnels from late fall to late spring, providing local restaurants with same-day delivery produce.

lost some of his restaurants and has yet to build those back. Local restaurants Sage, Coffee Tree, and Casa Fiesta are customers.

In September, he began production with what he calls a doughnut method. Silvernail tills and reseeds his high tunnels for fall production. He recognizes that he must make multiple seedings because germination rates are lower with warm soil temperatures. Some years he harvests through the new year, but in 2022 he sold out by November.

He seeds again in January, and when the hours of daylight reach at least 10 hours per day, he sees his plants take off. In 2023 his first harvest was Feb. 14.

His operation has grown from one tunnel to four. However, the high winds experienced in March took out one of the tunnels filled with the brassicas.

All harvesting is done by hand two days a week. Silvernail and his son, Jacob, can harvest about 25 -30 pounds or 50-60 half-pound bags per hour, which usually takes three hours. He estimates he gets about 1,000 pounds of produce from each tunnel each season.

He plans to stay with four high tunnels because he can manage those, especially now that his son is about

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# Organic farmer offers same-day produce

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to become a Peace Corps volunteer.

He is very proud of the sustainable practices he uses in his tunnels.

"I love my insects," he said. "I am an insect freak - especially my spiders." When he noticed black widow spiders had infiltrated his tunnels, he relocated egg-carrying female wolf spiders who feed on black widows and brown recluse. He also has jumping spi-

ders in the tunnels, which eat several pests.

He says he knows that every time he tills the soil, he is destroying it.

"I call myself Sisyphus, punished by Zeus, to roll a boulder up a hill every day only to watch it roll back down."

He feels he has to till the soil to reseed; transplants are too expensive. He works very hard in the off-season months to grow cover crops and add biomass with

organic matter in the tunnels at 3-4 percent.

His website proclaims that he provides the freshest, tastiest produce possible. How can he make that claim? By delivering the same day as harvest.

He likes to promote his produce by saying, "You'd be grazing if it were any fresher."

By Toni Riley  
Field Reporter

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Supply included: 14% Feeder Cattle (93% Dairy Steers, 7% Heifers); 81% Slaughter Cattle (88% Cows, 12% Bulls); 5% Replacement Dairy Cattle (13% Fresh/Milking Cows, 1% Bred Cows, 12% Bred Heifers, 42% Open Heifers, 12% Baby Bull Calves, 20% Baby Heifer Calves). Feeder cattle supply over 600 lbs was 14%.

**DAIRY STEERS:** Large 3: 1 Head, 290#, 102.00; 8 Head, 320-342# 95.00-119.00; 22 Head, 406-423# 131.00-152.00; 18 Head, 450-493#, 125.00-145.00; 13 Head, 565-595#, 110.00-142.00; 2 Head, 620#, 128.00; 6 Head, 660-668#, 103.00-142.00; 4 Head, 1020#, 108.00.

**HEIFERS:** 2 Head, 635#, 110.00. Medium 3: 3 Head, 432#, 104.00; 2 Head, 478#, 90.00; Large 3: 6 Head, 577#, 127.00.

**COWS:** Breaker 75-80%: 1 Head, 1600#, 92.00, Average; 10 Head, 1160-1700#, 97.00-112.00, High. Boner 80-85%: 70 Head, 900-1015#, 75.00-99.00, Average; 41 Head, 1050-1750#, 95.00-118.00, High; 10 Head, 920-1550#, 61.00-74.00, Low; 1 Head, 1125#, 94.00, Very Low. Lean 85-90: 11 Head, 805-1165#, 58.00-92.00, Average; 2 Head, 825-930#, 76.00-77.00, High; 2 Head, 900#, 58.00-60.00, Low.

**BULLS:** 16 Head, 1322-2230#, 111.00-126.00, Average; 2 Head, 1800-1896#, 130.00-140.00, High; 2 Head, 1200-1645#, 94.00-99.00, Low.

**FRESH/MILKING COWS:** Supreme, O Stage, 1 Head, 1125#, 1875.00; Approved, O Stage, 1100-1510#, 1375.00-1800.00; Approved, O Stage, 900-988#, 850.00-975.00, Jersey.

**BRED COWS:** Approved, Stage T3, 1 Head, 1100#, 1425.00.

**BRED HEIFERS:** Approved, Stage O, 4 Head, 285#, 285.00; Approved, Stage O, 9 Head, 300-350#, 385.00-435.00, Jersey; Approved, Stage O, 8 Head, 525-580#, 460.00-585.00; Approved, Stage O, 2 Head, 500#, 500.00 Jersey; Approved, Stage O, 5 Head, 600#, 585.00; Approved, Stage O, 3 Head, 700#, 760.00, Medium, Stage O, 2 Head, 250#, 211.00, Jersey; Medium, Stage O, 2 Head, 300#, 320.00, Jersey. .

**BABY BULL CALVES:** 4 Head, 60-80#, 80.00-150.00; 1 Head, 60#, 170.00, Beef Cross; 5 Head, 75#, 80.00-110.00, Crossbred.

**BABY HEIFER CALVES:** 4 Head, 45#, 40.00; 2 Head, 45#, 30.00, Beef Cross; 2 Head, 25-45#, 20.00-50.00, Jersey; 6 Head, 50-60#, 60.00-70.00; 2 Head, 50-65#, 150.00-160.00, Beef Cross; 1 Head, 50#, 130.00, Crossbred.

For a full listing visit: <https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/viewReport/2198>

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# Quarles, Kentucky cattle producers celebrate May as Beef Month



Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture Dr. Ryan Quarles, seated, displays a proclamation commemorating May as Kentucky Beef Month. Joining Quarles at the event were representatives of the Kentucky Beef Council, Kentucky Cattlemen's Association, and the beef industry.

Kentucky cattle producers and industry representatives joined Kentucky Commissioner of Agriculture Dr. Ryan Quarles Monday as he signed a proclamation commemorating the month of May as Kentucky Beef Month.

"With 895,000 head of beef cattle in

the commonwealth, Kentucky remains the state with the largest beef inventory east of the Mississippi River," Quarles said. "2022 was a tough year for farmers across our state with high production costs and weather issues that created tornadoes, floods, and droughts, but

our beef producers rallied through the issues. I ask that Kentuckians join me in recognizing their effort, hard work, and perseverance as we celebrate May as Kentucky Beef Month."

The United States is the world's largest producer of beef, primarily high-quality, grain-fed beef. Kentucky boasts the eighth largest in the nation. According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, Kentucky is home to 38,000 beef cattle producers of the 73,500 total farms in the state.

The January 2023 numbers for beef cows are down 4 percent from 2022, due mainly to a combination to widespread drought last year, high production costs, and high cull cow prices. The impacts of combined issues resulted in large decreases in beef cow numbers nationally and on a state level. Despite these issues, the value of this sector means the state's cattle industry is still a major contributor to the state's overall economy. According to information from UK's annual ag economic outlook, the state's cattle industry represents 13 percent of an estimated \$8 billion in ag cash receipts for 2022.

In 2022, Kentucky produced approximately 727 million pounds of beef valued at \$1.01 billion. Beef cattle sales accounted for approximately \$1.10 billion in cash receipts to Kentucky producers in 2022 – the first time cash receipts have exceeded \$1 billion since 2014 – and gross income of \$1.11 billion. Cattle cash receipts ranks fifth among Kentucky commodities and account for 13 percent of total cash receipts.

The top five Kentucky counties for number of beef cattle in 2022 included:

- Barren – 34,000
- Pulaski – 29,500
- Madison – 25,000
- Breckinridge – 22,000
- Warren – 21,500 (tie)
- Bourbon – 21,500 (tie)

"Kentucky is home to more than 38,000 beef farm families who depend on consumers for our livelihood," said Andy Bishop, Kentucky Cattlemen's Association president. "As we celebrate Beef Month I encourage you to not only enjoy beef, but get to know a farmer who is working hard to feed your family and theirs."

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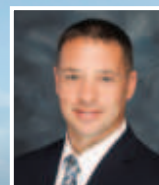
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# Support will continue as leadership changes takes place



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Dan  
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That's right,  
election time  
in Kentucky  
is just  
around the  
corner.

As Jamie Guffey and I catch up on one of our many phone calls throughout the year to see what's going on around the world, Kentucky agriculture, basketball family, the Kentucky Poultry Federation, and of course fishing, the topic of change came up. Change of executive officers for the KPF, changes in universities, changes in and out of the state. We should all be accustomed to change because change seems to be a common theme; we all deal with it regularly. When most of us think of change, we think of the difficulties, challenges, and extra work. Keep in mind, with change comes opportunity. Opportunities for us to grow, for us to improve, and for us to help others. Change can be very positive for any organization; it all comes down to your expectations and responsibilities.

One of the highlights of our summer activities is cooking omelets for the agricultural teachers at the annual CTE conference in Louisville. We try our best to meet the new agricultural educators and let them know about the educational opportunities we have and discuss our state-specific high school poultry curriculum. This is of course after we convinced them to help us cook omelets for the other teachers.

We also had the opportunity to discuss the changes in higher education. As many of you know, the University of Kentucky is looking for a chair of animal science, and Murray State University is looking for a dean for the Hutson School of Agriculture. If you noticed on Facebook, Western Kentucky University has hired its new Department of Agriculture and Food Science Head. We will work with these new leaders to advance poultry at their universities and in Kentucky. In addition to changes at the university, Kentucky will be hiring a new state veterinarian. We look forward to working with them, helping them recruit new employees and to work through regulations to update Kentucky's agricultural laws.

From time to time, our conversations turn to politics. You've probably noticed the increase in political commercials as well. That's right, election time in Kentucky is just around the corner. After eight years, we say thank you and goodbye to our current commissioner of Agriculture, Dr. Ryan Quarles. We've worked closely with the commissioner to improve, expand, and protect Kentucky's

SEE SUPPORT, PAGE 5

# The short, unhappy history of carbon sequestration

The key element of informed decision-making is facts. And not just any facts; the best, most tied-to-reality facts are needed to make the best decision.

One more thing: "Alternative" facts only exist in alternative universes so use them at your intergalactic peril.

Which is what Verra, "the world's leading carbon standard for the rapidly growing \$2 billion voluntary [carbon] offset market," appears to have done for years, reported The Guardian Jan. 18.

According to the newspaper, research found that "more than 90 percent of (the) rainforest offset credits," packaged by Verra and purchased by greenie-wannabes like Shell, Disney, and Gucci, "are likely to be 'phantom credits' and do not represent genuine carbon reductions."

Specifically, that means that "94 percent of the credits" Verra sold to "internationally renowned companies" had "no benefit to the climate" at all. Moreover, The Guardian continued, "The threat to forests has been overstated by about 400 percent for Verra projects."

Big Biz wasn't alone. Angst-filled grunge bands jumped on the CO2 bandwagon, too: Pearl Jam was among "...organizations that have bought rainforest offers approved by Verra..."

The findings hit experts like Barbara Haya, the director of the Berkeley Carbon Trading Project, like a sledgehammer. After all, reported The Guardian, Haya "has been researching carbon credits for 20 years, hoping to find a way to make the system function."

"The implications of this analysis are huge," she told the newspaper. "Companies are using credits to make claims of reducing emissions when most of these credits don't represent emissions reductions at all."

Huge, sure; but they mirror what others found whenever forest carbon offsets are examined as a conscience cleanser for corporate CO2 creators. For example, when a ProPublica reporter dug into forest-based CO2 offsets four years ago, she found—spoiler alert—the same sorry results as The Guardian found earlier this year.

"In case after case," wrote Lisa Song in her story, An (Even More) Inconvenient Truth, "I found that carbon credits hadn't offset the amount of pollution they were supposed to, or they had brought gains that were quickly reversed or that couldn't be accurately measured..."

"Ultimately," Song added, "the polluters got a guilt-free pass to keep emitting CO2 but the forest preservation that was supposed to balance the ledger either never came or didn't last."

Several ag researchers have sent up similar flares to warn farmers that carbon markets may not benefit the farm, the farmer or the

SEE THE SHORT, PAGE 5



FOOD  
&  
FARM  
FILE

Alan  
Guebert

"Companies are using credits to make claims of reducing emissions when most of these credits don't represent emissions reductions at all."

## The Farmer's Pride

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# The short, unhappy history of carbon sequestration

FROM PAGE 4

planet. To start, today's highly industrialized farming makes long-term carbon sequestration—the key to selling any carbon credit—a tricky feat. Second, there are few market rules in any ag carbon credit market anywhere for any farmer or buyer to follow, noted J. David Aiken, an ag economist who specializes in water and ag law at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

“What does the ag carbon credit market look like today?” Aiken asked in a 2021 paper. “It is the wild, wild west,” he warned.

The reason is simple: “No rules or regulations exist, so let the buyers and sellers beware. From where I sit, the two largest players appear to be speculators and pilot project developers.”

But the lack of transparent markets, standardized rules, or even solid agronomic science behind ag's possible carbon sequestration has not kept the federal government from entering—and juicing—the nascent, unproven enterprise.

Last year's bipartisan omnibus spending bill included the Growing Climate Solutions Act, explained

Grist this winter, to “get the nation's growers to adopt climate-friendly practices by encouraging participation in the carbon market.”

Like everyone else in the carbon market, however, farmers are “unclear how the law will address (their) biggest concerns.”

Other experts like William Rees, the University of British Columbia emeritus professor and co-creator of the human eco-footprint—later renamed “carbon footprint”—are far more clear-eyed on carbon sequestration, carbon trading, and carbon “net neutrality.”

“Carbon neutrality,” writes Rees in an April 17 email, “... is an engineer's fantasy and popular wishful thinking. Or, as I like to put it, ‘Humanity's propensity for socially constructing comforting shared illusions.’”

The italics are his but the takeaway is clear: There's nothing neutral about “carbon neutrality” and our wishful thinking won't make it so.

**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).

# Support will continue as leadership changes takes place

FROM PAGE 4

agriculture. We look forward to working with the incoming commissioner. We encourage everyone to vote. Below is some information about the upcoming election.

Dates to remember:

- Thursday, May 11 – Saturday, May 13: In-person no-excuse absentee voting to be conducted in the county clerk's office or other place designated by the county board of elections and approved by the State Board of Elec-

tions.

- Tuesday, May 16: Primary Election Day Polls open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Change is the one constant we all share in life. Let's embrace the change and let it be a positive part of our lives and the organizations that we are blessed to be a part of.

**DAN FLANAGAN** is the former President of the Kentucky Poultry Federation and a member of the Poultry Hall of Fame.

# Have you considered wheat?

Wheat has not been known as a chief commodity in Kentucky due to higher production challenges when compared to corn and soybeans, but I'd encourage you to take another look.

We asked Dr. Carrie Knott with the University of Kentucky to provide some insight for our grain growers looking to earn income on their winter cover crop and avoid burndown challenges. As Ohio's wheat production has declined in past years, Kentucky farmers could potentially make up the difference our millers and distillers' need. Be sure to check out that article on page 6 or on our website at [kysmallgrains.org](http://kysmallgrains.org).

Her advice is based on many years of research, which has been a high priority for the Kentucky Small Grain Growers and Promotion Council since we formed in the early 1990s. We have allocated more than \$4 million to wheat and small grain research efforts over the past 30 years to give our farmers the tools to earn extra income on their grain acres. We will be accepting new research proposals for the next round of funding through June, and our board members have asked investigators to look at topics such as sustainability, inputs, and soil health. A full list of guiding principles and ideas can be found on our website, but we welcome any additional input from growers.

Aside from market opportunities and research, we are also focused on legislation. Our number one goal for the next farm bill is protecting crop insurance, followed by getting better coverage at a lower cost, and then updating the reference price, which is not relevant to today's cost of production.

I currently serve as the treasurer of the National Association of Wheat Growers, which has been a real honor and a great experience for personal learning and growth.

Several of your Kentucky grower leaders and I met with other growers from all over the country this past February to share ideas and meet with our legislators and their staff. We met with Sen. Mitch McConnell, and his staff devoted quite a bit of time talking to us. Sen. Rand Paul was receptive to our messages and shared that he is trying to simplify the H2A process as our grain growers need qualified help to operate machinery. We talked with Eric Bergren, Congressman Brett Guthrie's chief of staff, and the real treat was having dinner with Congressman James Comer and his staff. Kentucky is very fortunate to have people on Capitol Hill who take an interest in agricultural matters.

Finally, I'd like to thank the other growers, marketers, and researchers who are serving our growing wheat and small grain industry. Sam Halcomb, of Logan County, is our current Grower Association president. He is full of interesting ideas, continuing the legacy of his father, Don Halcomb, who served small grain growers for about 25 years. I've also enjoyed getting to know newer board members Neil Denton and Jason Head. And let's not forget to mention long-time Promotion Council member Bernard Peterson, who is now the chairman of the National Wheat Foundation. They recently hosted the foundation members on their farm in Loretto. Kentucky's status in wheat production and use is making its way to center stage.

Kentucky's wheat and small grain leaders are true innovators, and they want to see these grains provide greater profitability for our growers. If you haven't considered wheat lately, maybe now is the time.



KY SMALL GRAIN PROMOTION COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Pat Clements

As Ohio's wheat production has declined in past years, Kentucky farmers could potentially make up the difference our millers and distillers' need.



# Expanding wheat production in Kentucky

Kentucky is known nationally for consistently growing a wheat/double-crop soybean rotation. This rotation has been a part of Kentucky agriculture for many years because of all its benefits.

- Wheat helps keep soil in place during the winter, reducing erosion.
- Wheat reduces nutrient loss from fields because it is a winter annual that grows and uses nutrients during the winter when other crops do not.
- Wheat reduces the number of weeds in fields when wheat stands are healthy.
- Wheat contributes to improving soil and building organic matter.
- Perhaps the biggest benefit of wheat is that it can be harvested for grain!

Although cover crops and wheat have similar benefits, except for being harvested as a cash crop, wheat does not have two major challenges that plague many cover crops in Kentucky. First, termination of cover crops at the preferred timing can be particularly challenging during the spring in Kentucky due to cool, wet conditions. Second, the risk of increasing slug and mollusk populations that negatively impact the following grain crop are not a concern in wheat production like they are in cover crops.

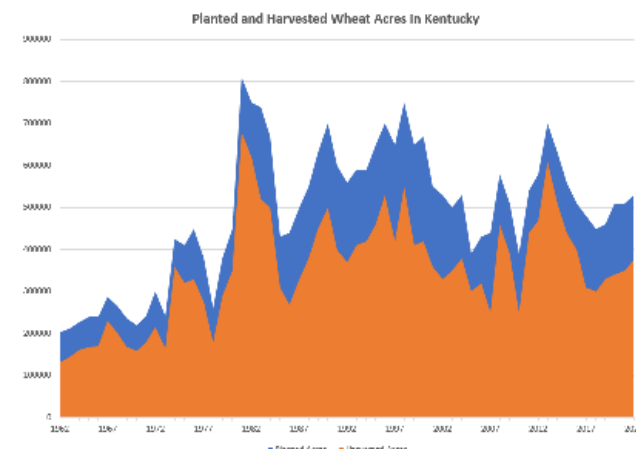
Despite all these benefits, wheat production in Kentucky has fluctuated considerably, which is driven by available markets. Currently, there is a great demand for wheat from millers and distillers.

Tips for anyone considering adding wheat to their rotation, whether they have never grown wheat or if it

has been many years since they last grew wheat:

- Start small. Don't immediately put as many acres in wheat as possible. Start with a few fields to see how a wheat crop fits in with existing operations/resources/personnel.
- Pick fields where wheat will thrive. Avoid fields with drainage issues.
- Be patient. It takes three to five years to 'learn' how to effectively incorporate a new crop or rotation into any operation/system.
- Be prepared to adjust corn management. A profitable wheat crop depends on timely planting in the fall. This often means that corn management needs to be adjusted to support timely wheat planting. Planting corn hybrids with a shorter relative maturity can allow corn harvest earlier in the fall and allow earlier wheat planting.
- Profitability is typically greatest with on-farm grain drying and storage systems available. This allows corn and wheat to be harvested and dried rather than field drying. It also allows earlier double-crop soybean planting, which generally increases the yield

of the double-crop soybean and increased profitability of the entire crop rotation.



Kentucky wheat production has declined from more than 600,000 acres in the early 1980s to less than 400,000 acres in 2022.

From the early 1980s to about 2015, a wheat/dou-  
SEE EXPANDING WHEAT, PAGE 7

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- Marketing plans for 2023-2024
- Corn and soybean seed and trait options
- NuTech, Stewart and Partners Brands excellent genetics and technology.
- One day at a time- Pray- Don't worry/fear the weather/markets/break downs/all of what we don't have control of
- Take your time - be safe and cautious - Focus on the important things in Life- Faith, Family, Friends and Stewardship of God's creations

"Pay respect to whom respect is due, Honor to whom honor is due." -Romans 13:7

"This is how we know what love is; Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters." -1 John 3:16

Thanks to all that have pasted and continue to serve in our military, law enforcement, fire fighters, EMT and protect and care for our Freedoms in the USA



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# USDA announces Grassland Conservation Reserve Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that agricultural producers and private landowners can begin signing up for the Grassland Conservation Reserve Program through May 26.

Among CRP enrollment opportunities, Grassland CRP is a unique working lands program, allowing producers and landowners to continue grazing and haying practices while conserving grasslands and promoting plant and animal biodiversity as well as healthier soil.

"Grassland CRP clearly demonstrates that agricultural productivity and conservation priorities can not only coexist but also complement and enhance one another," said Dean Schamore, FSA State Executive Director in Kentucky. "The strength of this program lies in its many benefits — through annual rental payments, the program helps producers and landowners produce and maintain diverse wildlife habitat, sequester carbon in the soil, and support sound, sustainable grazing. These benefits help keep agricultural lands in production while delivering lasting climate outcomes."

More than 3.1 million acres were accepted through the 2022 Grassland CRP signup from agricultural producers and private landowners. That signup—the highest ever for the program—reflects the continued success and value of investments in voluntary, producer-led, working lands conservation programs. The current total participation in Grassland CRP is 6.3 million acres, which is part of the 23 million acres enrolled in CRP opportunities overall.

Since 2021, USDA's FSA, which administers all CRP programs, has made several improvements to Grassland CRP to broaden the program's reach, including:

Creating two National Priority Zones to put focus on environmentally sensitive land such as that prone to wind erosion.

Enhancing offers with 10 additional ranking points to producers and landowners who are historically underserved, including beginning farmers and military veterans.

Leveraging the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program to engage his-

torically underserved communities within Tribal Nations in the Great Plains.

How to Sign Up for Grassland CRP

Landowners and producers interested in Grassland CRP, or any other CRP enrollment option, should contact their local USDA Service Center to learn more or to apply for the program before

the deadlines.

Producers with expiring CRP acres can enroll in the Transition Incentives Program, which incentivizes producers who sell or enter into a long-term lease with a beginning, veteran, or socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher who plans to sustainably farm or ranch the land.

## Expanding wheat production in Kentucky

FROM PAGE 6

ble-crop soybean rotation has been grown on at least 25 percent of Kentucky's soybean acres. The average wheat/double-crop soybean production during this period average was about 30 percent of the total soybean acreage in Kentucky.

Beginning in 2017, declining wheat production has resulted in less than 20 percent of soybean acres being pro-

duced in a wheat/double-crop soybean production system. If current projections hold, we may have as much as 22 or 23 percent soybeans in wheat/double-crop soybean for 2023, far from 35 to 40 percent during the 1990s.

Reduced soft red winter wheat production in Ohio has also led to increased opportunities for Kentucky wheat.

**By Dr. Carrie Knott**  
**University of Kentucky**

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## Italian Turkey Sausage and Peppers

3 red bell peppers  
2 green bell peppers  
1 yellow bell pepper  
2 large tomatoes  
1 large sliced red onion

6 cloves garlic, chopped  
2 tablespoons olive oil, divided  
2 teaspoons garlic powder, divided

2 tablespoons Italian seasoning  
8 4-ounce links of Italian turkey sausage  
¼ cup shredded mozzarella cheese

**Wash** and **slice** the peppers and tomatoes; **place** in a large bowl. **Place** sliced onions and chopped garlic cloves in a small bowl and **set** aside. In a separate small bowl, **combine** 1 tablespoon of olive oil, 1 teaspoon of garlic powder, and Italian seasoning. **Drizzle** oil mixture over peppers and tomatoes, and lightly toss. **Slice** each sausage link into 5 or more pieces. **Heat** 1 tablespoon of olive oil and the remaining garlic powder in a large skillet over medium-high heat. **Add** sausage and **cook** until browned. **Add** peppers

and tomatoes. **Reduce** heat to medium-low; **cover** and **simmer** 15 minutes; **stir** as needed. **Add** onions and chopped garlic; **cover** and **cook** an additional 5 minutes. **Sprinkle** with mozzarella cheese. **Cover** and **simmer** until cheese melts.

**Yield:** 6 1-cup servings

**Nutritional Analysis:** 380 calories, 21 g fat, 5 g saturated fat, 110 mg cholesterol, 730 mg sodium, 17 g carbohydrate, 3 g fiber, 8 g sugars, 0 g added sugars, 32 g protein.



## Triple Berry Crisp

**Ingredients:**

**Cooking spray**

1 ¾ cup fresh blackberries

1 ¾ cup fresh blueberries

1 ¾ cup fresh strawberries

3 tablespoons white sugar

¾ cup brown sugar

½ cup flour

½ cup oats

¾ teaspoon cinnamon

½ teaspoon nutmeg

1/3 cup butter

**Directions:**

Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Spray the bottom and sides of an 8-by-8 inch baking pan with nonstick cooking spray. Wash berries. Do not let berries soak in water. Hull strawberries by removing the stems and green tops. Place blueberries, blackberries and strawberries in a mixing bowl. Sprinkle berries with white sugar and stir. Set aside. In a separate, large bowl, mix the brown sugar, flour, oats, cinnamon and nutmeg. Cut in the butter until crumbly. Pour berry mixture into baking pan. Sprinkle crumbly mixture over the berries. Bake for 30 minutes or until the top is golden brown.



## Watermelon Tomato Salad

5 cups seeded watermelon cubes (¾ inch)  
3 cups of cubed tomatoes (¾ inch)  
¼ teaspoon salt  
1 small red onion, quartered and thinly sliced

¼ cup red wine vinegar  
2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil  
1 teaspoon black pepper  
6 lettuce leaves

**Directions:** **Combine** watermelon and tomatoes in a large bowl. **Sprinkle** with salt; toss to coat. Let stand 15 minutes. **Stir** in onion, vinegar, and oil. **Cover** and chill 2 hours. **Serve** chilled on lettuce leaves, if desired.

**Sprinkle** with cracked black pepper to taste. **Yield:** Makes 6, 1½ cup servings  
**Nutritional Analysis:** 100 calories, 5 g fat, 2 g protein, 18 g carbohydrate, 0 mg cholesterol, 105 mg sodium.

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





## Global grassland experts converge in Kentucky for international meeting

The International Grassland Congress is set to convene in the United States after a hiatus of more than four decades. The congress, held in Kentucky for the second time, brings together scientists, farmers, ranchers, extension leaders and industry experts from around the globe to discuss the crucial role of grasslands in promoting sustainability and health. This year's theme, "Grassland for Soil, Animal, and Human Health," underscores the crucial role of grasslands in fostering health and sustainability.

More than 600 attendees from over 60 countries will attend the congress in Covington May 14-19. Nancy Cox, UK vice president for land-grant engagement and UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment dean will speak at the opening session.

"We are excited to welcome the International Grassland Congress back to Kentucky and the United States," she said. "The honor of our state being chosen to host this event demonstrates that our work to improve forages is being recognized worldwide."

The first Congress on Grasslands was held in Leipzig, Germany in 1927, bringing together 16 scientists from seven European countries. Their aim was to discuss the significance of grasslands to food security.

"The congress meets every three to four years and offers a unique opportunity for attendees to collaborate," said Ray Smith, UK Plant and Soil Sciences professor and IGC organizing committee chairman. "Attendees can listen and talk to some of the leading minds in the field, sharing ideas and discussing the latest research and best practices. Delegates frequently state that the IGC congresses they attended were the high point of their careers because they interacted with people around the world who shared a passion for grasslands and the animals they support."

This year's program contains presen-

tations on production, storage and forage utilization, focusing on applied and academic perspectives. The conference will also cover grassland policies, social issues, ecosystem services and offer a trade show marketplace.

"The congress has been responsible for some significant progress in grassland research," Smith said. "One example relates to efforts to overcome tall fescue toxicity from the widely planted endophyte-infected Kentucky 31 variety."

Smith said New Zealand researcher Gary Latch met University of Georgia researcher Joe Bouton at the 1993 Grassland Congress. Bouton discovered Latch's safe endophytes and they developed a collaboration to insert these new endophytes into Bouton's southeast United States-adapted tall fescue varieties.

"This collaboration led to the entire novel endophyte tall fescue industry, providing safe tall fescue for cattle and horse producers across the country," Smith added.

During the congress, participants may explore grassland operations in Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio, gaining firsthand knowledge of the challenges and opportunities the region's farmers and ranchers face. The IGC will also offer optional pre-congress tours in the Southern Plains and the Southeastern United States.

"The congress allows researchers to share their ideas and research findings," Smith said. "Over the years, hundreds of collaborations have been developed among researchers in different countries who previously did not have a personal relationship. It's been great progressing the industry forward."

For more information or to register, visit <https://internationalgrasslands.org/2023-igc/>. With limited space, organizers encourage early registration.

**By Jordan Strickler**  
**University of Kentucky**

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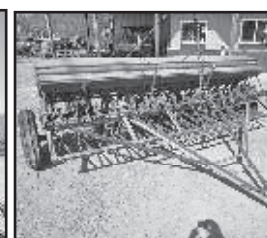
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# Ky receives \$118 million in annual tobacco settlement funds

Attorney General Daniel Cameron announced that Kentucky has received \$118,272,348.74 for the 2023 annual payment from the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement.

"This year, Kentucky received over \$118 million from the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement, bringing the total amount of funds received by the commonwealth since 1998 to \$2.66 billion," said Cameron. "I'm grateful to Michael Plumley for administering this settlement on behalf of our office, and am thankful for the support these funds will lend to agricultural initiatives and health and education programs."

In 1998, Kentucky and 51 states and territories reached the Master Settlement Agreement with four major cigarette manufacturers. The historic settlement resolved state lawsuits against the tobacco companies for Medicaid and other health costs related to smoking. The MSA is the largest settlement in U.S. history.

Under the settlement terms, participating cigarette manufacturers must make a yearly payment to the states

based on an annually adjusted rate per number of cigarettes sold each year.

The MSA serves two purposes – to obtain annual compensation for tobacco-related medical expenses and to reduce the number of new and underage smokers. It also sets restrictions for how tobacco products can be marketed.

Each state determines how the settlement funds are used. Kentucky's General Assembly has allocated 50 percent of the MSA funds for agricultural diversification. The remaining half is split evenly between the early childhood development fund and the Kentucky Health Care Improvement Fund. The General Assembly's Tobacco Settlement Agreement Fund Oversight Committee oversees and approves the agricultural grants.

Assistant Attorney General Michael Plumley administers the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement on behalf of the Attorney General's Office.

To learn more about the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement, visit [ag.ky.gov/MSA](http://ag.ky.gov/MSA).



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# Baleage Basics

## The Forage Doctor



By Jimmy Henning

The stored forage season is upon us. We know that half or more of our Kentucky forage supply is produced before June 15. The first few weeks of May are prime time for making round bale silage or baleage from our small grains. We often make baleage with the first cuttings of alfalfa and even some of our cool season grasses just to get the first growth harvested and to set up future cuttings.

To recap a bit, baleage is baling moist but wilted forage and wrapping it in enough plastic so the package goes through anaerobic fermentation. Baleage only needs one to two days of good curing weather compared to three or four for dry hay. Baleage helps to avoid the lower yield, loss of leaves, mold and dustiness that comes with weather damage in curing hay.

Making baleage is a fairly simple

process. It requires rakes and balers that can handle a heavy crop as well as access to a hay wrapper. A conditioning mower is less necessary with baleage than hay because stems do not need to be completely dry when ensiling.

Producers in Kentucky use both individual and inline wrapping machines, with the inline type being most common. These machines are able to handle more tons per hour and use less plastic than the individual bale wrappers.

To make good baleage, remember the following points:

1. Baleage fermentation is an anaerobic process. Dense bales and plastic wrap help exclude oxygen and facilitate the fermentation that leads to good baleage production.

2. The process requires soluble carbohydrates. Cut forage at the first flower (for legumes) or boot to early head (for grasses) so fermentable carbs will be high. During ensiling, the soluble carbohydrates in the forage are converted to acetic, propionic and lactic acid, dropping the pH of the bale, which makes it stable in storage. These



Making baleage can produce a high quality product and avoid weather damage like this alfalfa from Fleming County. Making baleage is a fairly simple process. Dense bales that are between 40 and 60% moisture and wrapped quickly with six layers of plastic will produce excellent feed.

volatile fatty acids give silage its distinctive smell and the low pH prevents the formation of molds.

3. Bale when moisture content is between 40 and 60 percent. Moisture is crucial to good baleage. Fresh forage

is 78 to 80 percent moisture when cut. Cut forage needs to wilt about a day before baling and maybe longer in cool, overcast weather. Heavy first cuttings

SEE BALEAGE, PAGE 17

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# PRIDE IN AG EDUCATION – Today's Farm News for Tomorrow's Farm Community

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## ON THE JOB: CAREERS IN KENTUCKY'S HORSE INDUSTRY

Provided by a partnership of the Kentucky Agriculture and Environment in the Classroom and Kentucky Agricultural Council.

Information provided in this edition comes by way of the Kentucky Equine Education Project. Salary ranges are averages for Thoroughbred industry-related jobs. Learn about more careers in agriculture at [www.kyfoodandfarm.info](http://www.kyfoodandfarm.info).



### Race Horse Trainer

**Description:** A track trainer is responsible for the overall health and performance of each horse in their care, from feeding schedules to training performance to routine vet visits.

**Average Annual Earnings:** \$40,000 - \$60,000 +

**Work Experience Required:** 5+ years

**On-the-Job Training:** Long-Term

**Minimum Education Required:** High School Diploma/GED plus Kentucky Horse Racing Commission license

### Assistant Trainer

**Average Annual Earnings:** \$40,800

**Work Experience Required:** Less than 5 yrs

**On-the-Job Training:** Moderate-Term

**Minimum Education Required:** High School Diploma/GED plus Kentucky Horse Racing Commission license

### Outrider

**Description:** An outrider is on horseback and is responsible for leading horses to the starting gates and keeping things orderly during the procession. They work closely with trainers & jockeys to ensure everyone gets around safely.

**Average Annual Earnings:** \$20,000

- \$45,000+

**Work Experience Required:** Less than 5 years

**On-the-Job Training:** Moderate - term

**Minimum Education Required:** Racing Officials Accreditation Program license

### Barn Foreman

**Description:** A barn foreman typically works for a trainer and manages the barn employees, training schedules, routine health appointments, and barn maintenance. Barn foremen typically live close to the track so they are available in an emergency.

**Average Annual Earnings:** \$28,050

**Work Experience Required:** Less than 5 yrs

**On-the-Job Training:** Moderate-term

**Minimum Education Required:** High School Diploma/GED, plus Kentucky Horse Racing Commission license

### Jockey

**Description:** Jockeys are responsible for taking their horse across the finish line first. Jockeys train intensively and must work to maintain a specific body weight at all times (most are between 108 and 118 pounds).

**Average Annual Earnings:** \$30,000 - \$50,000 +

**Work Experience Required:** Less than 5 years

**On-the-Job Training:** Moderate - term

**Minimum Education Required:** North American Racing Academy, Racing Officials Accreditation Program license.

### Exercise Rider

**Description:** An exercise rider is responsible for riding horses during their morning workouts, introducing racehorses to the starting gate process and providing feedback to the trainer regarding the horse's condition. The weight requirements for an exercise rider are not as strict as they are for a jockey.

**Average Annual Earnings:** \$500 - \$700+ per week or \$10 - \$15/horse

**Work Experience Required:** 1+ years

**On-the-Job Training:** Moderate - term

**Minimum Education Required:** Racing Officials Accreditation Program license

### Groom

**Description:** A groom is the direct caretaker of one or multiple horses, and is typically in charge of keeping horses clean, checking them for health issues, preparing horses for training or work, and communicating information about the horse to the owners, trainers, and managers. They may also be in charge of feeding the horses and mucking stalls.

**Average Annual Earnings:** \$25,500

**Work Experience Required:** Less than one year

**On-the-Job Training:** Short-term

**Minimum Education Required:** High School Diploma/GED, plus Kentucky Horse Racing Commission license

### Hot Walker

**Description:** A hot walker is responsible for removing tack post-workout or race and keeping the horses moving until they are fully cooled out and ready to be put away. The groom may perform these duties in smaller operations.

**Average Annual Earnings:** \$15,300

**Work Experience Required:** Less than one year

**On-the-Job Training:** Short-term

**Minimum Education Required:** High School Diploma/GED, plus Kentucky Horse Racing Commission license

Learn more at [www.teachkyag.org/horsecareers](http://www.teachkyag.org/horsecareers)

### Meet Jordan Blair, Racehorse Trainer

Horse trainer Jordan Blair, of Lexington, prepares and conditions Thoroughbred horses for their racing careers. Jordan became involved in horse racing because he said he has always enjoyed horses and agriculture.

"I enjoy the earth, and animals, and this profession encompassed both. Once I was involved in racing, I was hooked and never wanted to leave."

While it was experience on the racetrack that helped him prepare for training horses, Jordan said college prepared him to run a business. After college, he wanted to see what the racetrack was like, and went to work as a hotwalker and learned from there. Jordan explained that to do his job well he has to know all parts of Thoroughbred Racing, the anatomy of the horse, how to maintain a horse's health, and how to manage a business, payroll, and budgets.





# UK meat cutting school offering processed meats workshop

As health-conscious consumers seek out convenient and protein-packed snack options, meat snacks have emerged as the perfect solution. According to Transparency Market Research recently reported the demand for these savory treats is expected to surge through 2029 due to protein-focused, lower-carb diets.

To help meat processors capitalize on this trend, the University of Kentucky Meat Cutting School will offer a free Processed Meats Workshop in June to help meat processors ride the wave of that demand.

"The meat snacks category, such as jerky and snack sticks, is one of the fastest-growing segments of the snack food industry," said Gregg Rentfrow, meat science professor for the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. "Meat processors who add processed meats to their retail offerings can increase their revenue by more than 35 percent. We will demonstrate how to make wet-cured hams and bacon and will share our recipes and smokehouse schedules."

Rentfrow said processed meats tend to be a staple in the Midwest and in

northern states.

"We want to make processed meats popular in the Bluegrass," he added.

The free workshop focuses on the basics of making a variety of sausages and ingredient functionalities. Participants will meet June 14 at the UK Meats Lab from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EDT and the event is open to the first 30 registrants.

Send registration information to Rentfrow at [Gregg.rentfrow@uky.edu](mailto:Gregg.rentfrow@uky.edu). The UK Meats Lab is at 325 Cooper Drive, Lexington, KY 40546.

Each year, the UK Meats Cutting School offers hands-on pork and beef processing workshops to teach processors the basics of slaughter and carcass fabrication. This year's events are sold out.

"We're looking forward to offering a robust workshop schedule this year," Rentfrow said. "We enjoy helping our meat wholesalers, butchers and retailers learn to perfect the basics and understand the entire process from carcass to counter."

**By Aimee Nielson**  
**University of Kentucky**

## PRIDE IN AG EDUCATION Classroom Questions

1. What is a brassica?
2. What recommendations are provided to producers who are considering wheat production?
3. List the top five beef producing counties in Kentucky and the number of cattle produced in each of those counties.
4. Write about recent news coverage that questions the results of carbon credits.
5. Describe how Master Settlement Funds became available.
6. How does Kentucky invest the Master Settlement Funds it receives.
7. What is baleage?
8. What is an advantage to making baleage versus curing hay?



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## Baleage Basics

FROM PAGE 12

may take a second day of drying to get down to 60% moisture, especially if the ground is charged with moisture.

4. Make bales as dense as your baler will allow. Dense bales trap less air and become anaerobic faster. Achieving dense bales is more difficult with mature stemmy forages.

5. Wrap within 24 hours of baling with six layers of UV-stabilized stretch wrap plastic. Only cut down as much forage as can be baled and wrapped in one day. Delaying longer than 24 hours causes noticeable heating in the bales,

lowering available carbohydrates for ensiling as well as the quality of the ensiled product.

6. Make uniform bales with flat tops and perpendicular edges, especially when using inline wrappers. Adjoining bales of different sizes will stress the plastic so the seal between layers is imperfect. Oxygen will penetrate at these stress points, leading to mold formation. In severe cases, the plastic will separate and the entire section of bales will be lost.

7. For inline-wrapped bales, engage the brake on the wrapping platform or orient the wrapper so it travels

uphill. This action makes sure bales are tightly butted against each other as they are moved through the wrapper.

8. Maintain plastic integrity, especially for the first 30 days when the majority of ensiling takes place. Patch holes with tape designed for the UV-stabilized stretch wrap plastic on the bales.

9. Ideally, the bales should ensile for 30 days before feeding. Feeding sooner than 30 days after wrapping will not harm livestock but the bunk life of this forage will be reduced. Partially ensiled forage will start to heat and mold in a few days after removed from

plastic, especially in warm temperatures. Consume these as fast as possible.

Making baleage is a useful technique to avoid weather damage in your stored forage and to harvest a high quality product. Baleage can be very high quality when cut at the proper stage of maturity, baled tightly and wrapped with six layers of plastic to exclude oxygen. For more information on making baleage, including how to measure moisture content, see AGR-235 'Baleage: Frequently Asked Questions.'

Happy foraging.

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**Lewisauktion.hibid.com to view, register, bid and buy.**

**LOCATION:**  
**401 CORINTH ROAD**  
**BUFFALO KY 42716**



Lewis Auction Company has been commissioned to sell a selection of farm equipment from a farm in Buffalo.

Highlights include  
 • Kubota M108S diesel 4WD tractor with Kubota  
 • Ford 4630 turbo diesel tractor

• Ford 6640 Powerstar S diesel tractor  
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Preview: Tuesday, May 2 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. at 401 Corinth Road Buffalo KY 42716  
 270-268-8134, 270-737-1839

Payment and Pickup will be made for all items at: 401 Corinth Road Buffalo KY 42716, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday May 11, 2023. There will be lifting equipment on site day of pickup to assist with loading except for lot 71 buyer is responsible.

Terms: Buyers Premium will be 12% for cash or good check, wire transfer, credit cards are accepted with a 3% surcharge. Any items not paid for by 6 p.m. on Thursday May 11, 2023, your credit card will be charged unless prior arrangements are made with the auction company before placing a bid. All items sold AS Is where is.

Lewis Auction Company staff reserves the right to bid and buy items for their personal use. You are buying the item as described, if multiple items are in a photo, you are buying only the item as described in each lot. For more information please contact Broker Bobby Dobson 270-735-2241, Auctioneer Barry Brown 270-268-8134 or Online Sales Associate David Mather 270-268-9803 for more information, or go to Lewisauktion.hibid.com to view, register and bid.

Bidding is INTERNET ONLY. Lots will begin to close in order and will close EVERY 15 SECONDS until the auction is completed. This auction will feature extended bidding, meaning that if a bid is placed in the final 2 minutes, the bidding will be extended an additional 2 minutes to ensure that all bidders have time to place their bids. This will continue until there is no bid for a 2-minute period.

**APRIL 28TH THRU MAY 31ST**  
**WITH A SOFT CLOSE**  
**AT 7 P.M.**

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Preview: Saturday, May 13th 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. at 1957 McDowell Rd Hodgenville, KY 42748

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Check out at 3333 Tanner Road and pickup at 1957 McDowell Road. You must present a Paid in Full receipt at McDowell Road before you can pickup.

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