

# Ohio County Farm & Home News

## PESTICIDE SAFETY EDUCATION TRAININGS



The next “**Pesticide Safety Education Trainings**”, at the Ohio Co. Extension Center, for this year will be held:

- **Thursday, Feb. 20 - 8:00 a.m. till 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. till 9:00 p.m.**

Check your cards to be sure you have a valid certification for 2025 or we can check when your card expires, by calling the Extension Office. Cards expire on December 31 of the year of expiration. The “Pesticide Safety Education” is free and open to anyone wanting to attend, whether you are renewing your certification or need to receive your certification for the first time.

## BEEF/FORAGE MEETING – FEB. 18<sup>TH</sup>

We will hold our annual “**Beef/Forage Meeting**” next Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at the Ohio Co. Extension Center, starting at, with a beef dinner, at 6:00 p.m.

Guest speakers will be:

- Dr. Kenny Burdine, U.K. Extension Livestock Economist, discussing the current beef markets and an outlook on



how the 2025 beef markets should perform.

- Dr. Chris Teutsch, U.K. Extension Forage Specialist, discussing repairing pasture & hayfields after last years delayed cuttings and last season dry weather.

This program should be an excellent opportunity for you to get started into 2025 with valuable management information for your operation, along with great fellowship with other county producers.

See you on the 18<sup>th</sup>!!!

## KY MAPLE DAY – FEB. 15<sup>TH</sup> AT HITCHEL FARM

Native Americans made maple sap into maple sugar long before the Europeans arrived in America. Today, U.S. consumers are demanding more natural, chemical free food sources. Thus, a rebirth of tapping trees for maple syrup in Kentucky.

Maple Day was created about 4 years ago, as an educational and celebration event centered around how maple syrup is produced. The program is coordinated statewide by the University of Kentucky/Department of Forestry. In 2025, maple syrup producers across Kentucky



will celebrate “Ky Maple Days on Feb. 1<sup>st</sup> and Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>.

Hitchel Farm started participating in Maple Days in 2020. So, be sure to bring your family to Hitchel Farm on **Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup> for “Ky Maple Day”**,



to see how maple syrup is collected from trees and turned into “REAL” maple syrup.

Kentucky Maple Days is a great winter agritourism opportunity to get the family out to visit some of

Kentucky’s maple producers and see how this industry is making a comeback in the state.

You can visit **Hitchel Farm, at 4735 Rob Roy Rd. near Cromwell**. They will open their farm to visitors on Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, from **9:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m.** They will have tours to the sugarbush (where they collect the sap from trees) and sugar shack (where they cook the sap into syrup), live demonstrations, fresh maple syrup and a “Sweet Shop” with various goodies made from maple syrup. There will also be plenty of hot chocolate!!!

The Ky Maple Day program represents a unique opportunity for Kentucky families to get their hands on pure Kentucky maple syrup and learn how it is made.

## **FEEDLOT PLACEMENTS BELOW EXPECTATIONS FOR JANUARY**

The following article is from Dr. Kenny Burdine, Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist at U.K., discussing the latest cattle-on-feed report for January.

The January Cattle on Feed report was released on Friday afternoon. Total on-feed inventory to start the year was estimated at a little over 11.8 million head, which is down by just

under 1% from January of 2024. Despite the fact that feeder cattle supplies have been lower, feedlot inventories ran above year-ago levels for eight of twelve months in 2024 as lower feed prices encouraged longer feeding times. While I don’t want to read too much into it, this was the largest year-over-year decline since May

Placements were once again the headliner of the report as they came in below, and outside the range of pre-report estimates. December 2024 placements were estimated at 1.64 million, which was 3.3% below December 2023. On the surface, this seemed logical as December represented a full month of not receiving live cattle imports from Mexico. This also marked the second month in a row with placement levels being more than 3% below year-ago.

Friday’s report was also a quarterly cattle-on-feed report, which means it included an estimate of the steer / heifer breakdown. In the absence of a July cattle inventory report, this has been one of the main indicators economists have been tracking for evidence of heifer retention. Heifers accounted for 38.7% of total on-feed inventory on January 1, 2025. While this doesn’t speak to retention, it is worth noting that this is about 1% lower than last January and 1% lower than October 2024. So, it does bear watching as we move further into 2025. Again, I think imports from Mexico had some impact here as heifers had represented a higher than usual share of imports prior to the ban in late November.

Last week’s cattle on feed report will be overshadowed later this week as USDA-NASS will release their annual inventory estimates on the afternoon of January 31<sup>st</sup>. While beef cow slaughter was down sharply for 2024, most are still expecting continued decreases in beef cattle numbers at the national level. It will be interesting to see the state-by-state numbers and specifically to look at areas where heifer retention may have already begun. Given the favorable price outlook for calves, I think heifer retention is very possible in 2025 if weather is cooperative. But I also think this will be a relatively slow cow-herd expansion once retention does begin.

Feeder cattle and calf prices were generally higher last week, as were fed cattle prices. Boxed prices were down slightly, but all prices were sharply above year ago levels. Live and feeder cattle futures were up sharply on the week.

## NOXIOUS WEED SPRAY PROGRAM

Each year, the Ky Department of Agriculture offers the “Noxious Weed Spray Program” to farmers across Kentucky.

The guidelines are the same as the last few years:

- KDA furnishes the chemical for demonstrations on seven (7) farms per county
- Chemical will be supplied for 10 acres, to be sprayed with 2,4-D
- Application is performed with a two-wheeled trailer type sprayer equipped with boomless nozzles
  - If additional 2,4-D chemical is provided by the participant, an additional 10 acres can be treated
  - The participant must provide water source



- The participant must provide tractor and operator
- All chemical products must be labeled and the product label will be strictly followed
- Any farm or farm owner that has participated in the last 3 years is ineligible to participate

This program is designed to target weeds that have a negative impact on the participant’s agricultural production, such as thistles, buttercup, etc... There will be an annual online application period to participate in this program.

You may submit an application using the on-line services until February 28<sup>th</sup>. The application is located at:

<https://www.kyagr.com/consumer/nuisance-weed-spraying-program-application.aspx>



- February 18 – Beef/Forage Meeting; Ohio Co. Extension Center, Hartford; 6:00 p.m.
- February 20 – Pesticide Safety education Training; Ohio Co. Extension Center; 8:00 a.m. till 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. till 9:00 p.m.
- February 25 – Master Logger Web TV; Ohio Co. Extension Center, Hartford; 8:00 a.m. till 3:00 p.m. CT
- March 6 – Pesticide Safety Education Training; Ohio Co. Extension Center; 6:00 till 9:00 p.m.
- March 11 – Beef Quality & Care Assurance Training; Ohio Co. Extension Center; 6:00 p.m.
- March 20 – Drone Sprayer School; U.K. Research & Education Center, Princeton  
For information and registration for KATS Workshops visit [kats.ca.uky.edu](http://kats.ca.uky.edu) or contact  
Lori Rogers [lori.rogers@uky.edu](mailto:lori.rogers@uky.edu) 270-365-7541 ext 21317.
- March 27 – Italian Ryegrass Control Field Tour; Caldwell Co. Extension office, Princeton; 8:30 a.m. till 11:30 a.m.

*The Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment is an Equal Opportunity Organization with respect to education and employment and authorization to provide research, education information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Inquiries regarding compliance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and other related matter should be directed to Equal Opportunity Office, Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, University of Kentucky, Room S-105, Agriculture Science Building, North Lexington, Kentucky 40546, the UK Office of Institutional Equity and Equal Opportunity, 13 Main Building, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0032 or US Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.*