



# AG UPDATE

## SUMMER 2025

Hardin County Cooperative Extension  
111 Opportunity Way, Elizabethtown, KY  
(270) 765 - 4121 | [hardin.ca.uky.edu](http://hardin.ca.uky.edu)



## AGENT MESSAGE

Hello all!

I hope all are doing well. As the weather gets warmer, make sure to look out for signs of heat stress in livestock and yourself. Signs of heat stress in livestock may include slobbering, high respiratory rate (panting), open mouth breathing, lack of coordination, and trembling. Symptoms of a heat-related illness in you, may include a high body temperature, confusion, loss of coordination, sweating, skin that is hot and dry, throbbing headache, and exhaustion. Take precautions to keep both you and your livestock healthy.

Grain crop farmers, be on the look out for possible corn diseases such as Tar Spot and Southern Rust. Currently there have been no confirmed cases.

We have a new AG Agent here at the office and we both have been busy preparing for the fall and winter with programs. Please read on for more information on those!

*Ashley Norton*  
Ashley Norton

Hardin County CES Agent for ANR  
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*J. Paterson*  
Joseph Paterson

Hardin County CES Agent for ANR  
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## NEW ANR

## AGENT

### Joe Paterson

Hello all,

I grew up in NY, but am moving here from Virginia, where I just finished my bachelors in Crop and Soil Science and a job where I was moving cattle, sheep, hogs, layers, broilers and turkey 6 days a week on pasture. I came to extension in order to serve farmers with what I've learned and to learn a thing or two while I am at it. I look forward to meeting you in person and supporting this community however I am able.



## TEXT UPDATES

If you want to receive texts about upcoming programs text the words "JOIN AG" to (270) 765-4121. You will be notified of all ag programs by text.



## SPECIALIZATIONS:

### ASHLEY NORTON

Focuses in:

- Row crops:  
Corn,  
Soybeans, etc.
- Ag Economics

### JOE PATERSON

Focuses In:

- Livestock
- Forage
- Natural  
Resources

### Kentucky Weather Alert App

This ad-free app from the UK Ag Weather Center is an excellent resource for staying safe and informed. It provides daily and hourly forecasts, high-resolution radar, National Weather Service alerts sent directly to your phone, and a link to this update. Without any distracting ads, this app can act as another reliable warning source during tonight's severe weather. Be sure to check it out by scanning or clicking the QR codes below to download the app on both iOS and Google Play platforms



## PROGRAM IDEA?

Scan the QR code and fill out the short survey or call us to request programs!

[https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_bekKcVO57YFmZN4](https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bekKcVO57YFmZN4)



# Upcoming Hardin County Programs...

 Cooperative  
Extension Service



## RINSE & RETURN

Plastic Pesticide Recycling Program

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Hardin County Extension Office

111 Opportunity Way

Elizabethtown, KY 42701

Plastic pesticide containers up to five gallons in size that have been triple- or pressure-rinsed are clean inside and out, as well as the caps and labels removed, will be accepted for recycling.

The program is open and free to all residents of Hardin County.

This program is a cooperative, environmental effort by Hardin Fiscal Court, Hardin County Farm Bureau, Hardin County Cooperative Extension Service and local ag crop product retailers.

 Cooperative  
Extension Service

## P.L.A.N.

### Preparing to Leave Assets for the Next Generation

A multi-part series intended to get you started on a path to making a plan that will ensure your land and belongings are a blessing to your next generation rather than a burden.



Make a PLAN  
for your family



Make a PLAN  
for your finances



Make a PLAN  
for your future

### Make a PLAN to attend!

Register by calling 270-765-4121

New Topics and Speakers from  
PLAN last year!

**JULY 24 AT 6:00 PM  
&  
JULY 31 AT 6:00 PM**  
DINNER PROVIDED AT EACH

-  Transferring Your Cherished Possessions
-  Reducing Conflict between your Family
-  Protecting Your Farm and Assets from Disaster
-  Hear from industry experts with real experience



CALL/TEXT 270-765-4121 TO REGISTER



Our Location  
111 Opportunity Way, Elizabethtown

## SERVICES WE PROVIDE:

- Farm Visits
- Insect ID
- Manure/Litter Testing
- Plant Diagnostic Testing
- Forage Testing
- Soil Testing
- Weed ID

## ITEMS FOR CHECKOUT:

- Grain Moisture Tester
- Hay Probe
- Hay Moisture Tester
- Soil Probe/Bags
- Soil Penetrometer
- Windrow Moisture Tester

# Upcoming Statewide Events...

## PREPARING FARMERS & RANCHERS FOR THE FUTURE OF CARBON MARKETS

*online webinar*

**DATE : July 10, 2025**  
**TIME : 11:30 -12:30 CST**

### Speakers

Dr. Jordan Shockley  
Tiffany Dowell Lashmet

Carbon markets are rapidly evolving – and it's important for producers to stay informed. This webinar is designed to help farmers and ranchers understand where things stand and what's coming next.

### We'll cover:

- The current status of carbon markets in agriculture
- The difference between carbon offsets and carbon insets
- What these terms mean for producers
- Production, marketing, and legal risks tied to carbon programs
- How to prepare for the future of carbon in ag

Whether you're already considering a carbon program or just want to learn more, this session is for you.

**This webinar is free, but you must register:**  
**<https://forms.office.com/r/Lw6RDL6Np>**

Department of  
Agricultural Economics



TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION



The Kentucky Beef Network is partnering with UK Entomology, Kentucky Department of Agriculture and Kentucky Public Health to conduct **tick drags in cattle pastures this spring and summer**. This project is designed to demonstrate the prevalence of the Lone Star tick, while also documenting other tick species commonly found in Kentucky grazing environments.



If you're interested in having a tick drag conducted on your farm—or know someone who might be—please **scan this QR code** or visit **[forms.gle/UmKz9nkwPVmWLDpN6](https://forms.gle/UmKz9nkwPVmWLDpN6)**

## UK Corn, Soybean & Tobacco Field Day

**July 22, 2025**

Registration begins: 7:00 CT  
8:00 am-12:00 pm CT

**UKREC FARM,  
300 EXTENSION FARM RD.,  
PRINCETON, KY 42445**

### TOPICS include:

#### AGRONOMICS AND ECONOMICS

- Economic Update
- Round Bale Economic Discussions
- Weed Science Update 2025
- Corn Needs for Nitrogen and Sulfur Following Cover Crops
- Foliar Fertilizer Rarely Increase Yield in Soybean Across the U.S.

#### IPM

- Corn Disease Concerns for 2025
- Familiar and New Soybean Diseases to Look Out for in 2025
- Emerging Mollusk Pests & Insect Threats in Field Crops in Kentucky

#### SOILS

- NRCS Soil Health Updates
- Agr-1 Update: Corn N Rate Recommendations
- The Current Status of Sulfur Fertility for Row Crop Production

#### TOBACCO

- Red Leaf Burley Demonstration and UKREC Tobacco Research Update
- UT Tobacco Research Update
- Optimizing Plant Populations for Burley Tobacco
- Assessing Quadris Effectiveness in Target Spot Populations



## BE ON THE LOOK OUT!

We are in the process of planning new programs for the fall and winter season. Programs may include: Chute side BQCA, Field Days, Grain programs, and many more!!

Be sure to follow our Facebook and subscribe to our texting service to be updated on upcoming programs.



# Managing your herd's pinkeye long before the first 'bad eye' of the season

Pinkeye, or Infectious Bovine Keratoconjunctivitis (IBK), is one of the most frustrating and costly diseases beef producers face. It negatively affects weaning weights, increases treatment costs and leads to discounts at sale due to corneal scarring. While it spreads quickly once it starts, the key to managing pinkeye lies in reducing risk—long before the first bad eye of the season.

## Understanding the Disease

Pinkeye is caused by a complex mix of bacteria, most notably *Moraxella bovis*, *Moraxella bovoculi*, and *Mycoplasma bovoculi*. These organisms can live harmlessly in the eye until certain conditions—like eye injury or irritation—trigger them to become aggressive. *M. bovis*, for example, uses hairlike pili to attach to damaged corneas and releases toxins that destroy corneal tissue—leading to painful ulcers.

New research shows that pinkeye involves more than just one bacterium, making vaccine development difficult. Some strains are considered harmless, while others are highly virulent and resistant to antibiotics.

## Reducing Risk Starts Early

Reducing the risk of pinkeye begins with strengthening your herd's natural defenses. Good nutrition, especially adequate levels of trace minerals like selenium and copper, is essential. Clean, cool water helps maintain hydration and tear production, which protects the eye. Avoid stagnant water sources and regularly clean automatic waterers.

Environmental irritants are major contributors. Dust, ultraviolet (UV) rays, tall weeds and seed heads can all damage the eye, making it possible for bacteria to take hold. White-faced breeds like Herefords are more susceptible due to increased UV reflection to the eye's surface. Providing shade and mowing pastures can help reduce these risks.

## Face Fly Control

Face flies are the primary transmitters of pinkeye bacteria. They feed on eye secretions and can spread infection from animal to animal. Unlike horn flies, face flies aren't affected by systemic insecticides. Instead, use a combination of feed-through insect growth regulators (IGRs), insecticide ear tags, dust bags and back rubbers strategically placed in high-traffic areas.

Start IGRs in mid-spring, about 30 days before fly season, and continue until 30 days after it ends. Rotate insecticide products annually, based on mode of action (MOA), to prevent resistance. Aim to keep face fly numbers below 10 per head.

# Cont. Managing your herd's pinkeye long before the first 'bad eye' of the season

## Recognizing Symptoms and Acting Fast

Early signs of pinkeye may include excessive tearing, squinting and blinking. Prompt treatment is critical to prevent spread and minimize damage. Long-acting injectable antibiotics like oxytetracycline (LA-300®) or tulathromycin (Draxxin®) are effective and labeled for pinkeye treatment. In severe cases, eye patches or surgical procedures may be needed to protect the cornea.

Topical fly repellents and isolating affected animals can also help reduce transmission. Always consult your veterinarian for treatment decisions and prescriptions.

## The Role of Vaccines

Vaccines can reduce the number and severity of cases but aren't foolproof. Commercial vaccines work best when the strain in the vaccine matches the strain in your herd. When they don't, custom-made (autogenous) vaccines may be more effective. Timing is key—start vaccinations 4–6 weeks before pinkeye season and follow up with a booster for full protection.

Pinkeye is a complex disease, but control is possible with a proactive approach. Focus on nutrition, clean water, fly control and minimizing eye irritants. Work closely with your veterinarian to develop a treatment and vaccination plan tailored to your herd. With early action and consistent management, you can reduce the impact of pinkeye and keep your cattle healthy and productive.

Contact the Hardin County Extension office or veterinarian for more information on how to address pinkeye in cattle.

Pinkeye Fact Sheet: [https://ruminant.ca.uky.edu/files/factsheet\\_on\\_pinkeye\\_final.pdf](https://ruminant.ca.uky.edu/files/factsheet_on_pinkeye_final.pdf)

**Michelle Arnold, DVM (University of Kentucky Ruminant Extension Veterinarian, Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory)**



# Cover Crop Options on Prevented Planting Acres in 2025

As of the June 9, 2025 USDA Crop Progress Report, corn planting progress was only 88% which is 7 points behind the 5-year average of 95%. According to the United States Department of Agriculture Risk Management Agency (USDA RMA), the End of Planting Period for Corn in Kentucky is June 15, 2025 and the Final Planting date for corn in Kentucky is June 31, 2025 (USDA RMA Web Applications). For soybean, The End of Late Planting Period is July 10, 2025 for single crop and July 15, 2025 for double crop (USDA RMA Web Applications). The Final Planting Date for soybean is June 15, 2025 for single crop and June 25, 2025 for double crop.

Farmers may be considering prevented planting on a few fields this year. A summer cover crop can help manage weeds, take up nutrients already applied and build or maintain soil quality with healthy root systems.

**Grass summer cover crop species:** sorghum sudangrass hybrids and millets will establish and grow well in Kentucky (Table 1). Sorghum sudangrass will produce heavy biomass. Foxtail millet could be bushhogged in in the late boot stage and will not regrow. **Legume summer cover crop species:** cowpea and sunn hemp both will establish well and help cover the soil (Table 1). Annual lespedeza is another option and will produce the lowest biomass of these three. **Other summer cover crop species:** oilseed radish can grow over the summer, but it is harder to establish than the grasses.

**Staying with one species type:** If a farmer grows only a grass summer cover crop, then there are herbicide options to control broadleaf weeds should they escape the cover crop. If a farmer grows only a legume, then there are some grass herbicide options to control escapes in that crop. **Mixing Species:** Mixing millet with cowpea or sunn hemp might provide excellent erosion prevention from the grass and some additional nitrogen from the legume. That additional nitrogen could be beneficial to a crop planted in the fall. The mixed species eliminates the ability to use a herbicide if other weeds escape.

The cover crop seed should be of high quality, easy to drill and provide excellent ground cover for most of the summer. “Cheap” cover crop seed that does not meet these criteria will cost too much. If the primary goal is weed suppression, then choose a cover crop with higher biomass potential. If higher biomass will lead to other challenges in the fall, then select a cover crop with less biomass potential. The Grain, Forage, and Cover Crop Guide for Kentucky (AGR-18) provides an excellent overview of the species listed above. Some of the species mentioned above are included in Table 1 here. The Southern Cover Crop Council has a cover crop selector tool <https://covercrop-selector.org/>. The farmer can specify their cover crop window, location, soil condition, and goals, and then read about the options that align with their system.

# Cont. Cover Crop Options on Prevented Planting Acres in 2025

Table 1. Selected Summer Cover Crop Options for Prevented Planting. Table Compiled from AGR-18: Grain, Forage, and Cover Crop Guide for Kentucky. See AGR-18 for more details.

Species	Seeding rate per acre	Seeding depth (inches)	Seeding date	Approximate Yield, Tons/Acre
<b>Grasses</b>				
Millet, Foxtail (German)	15 to 20 lb drilled; 20 to 30 lb broadcast	0.25 to 0.50	May 1 to Aug 1	1.0 to 3.0 T
Japanese millet	10 lb drilled; 20 lb broadcast	0.25 to 0.50	June to July	2.5 to 5.0 T
Millet, Pearl	summer cover crop: 10 lb drilled, 20 lb broadcast	0.25 to 0.50	June to July	2.5 to 5.0 T
Sudangrass	20 to 30 lb drilled; 20 to 30 lb broadcast	0.50 to 1.0	May 10 to Aug 1	2.0 to 5.0 T
Sorghum x Sudangrass Hybrids	summer cover crop: 15 lb drilled; 30 lb broadcast	0.5 to 1.5	Jun to Sep	4.0 to 5.0 T
<b>Legumes</b>				
Cowpeas	summer cover crop: 60 lb drilled; 100 lb broadcast	1.0	Jun to Jul	2.0 T
Lespedeza, Annual	20 to 25 lb alone; 10 to 15 lb mixtures	0.25	Feb 15 to Apr 1	1.0 to 2.5 T
Sunn hemp	30 lb drilled, 50 lb broadcast	0.50 to 1.0	June to Jul	2.0 to 7.5 T
<b>Brassicas (Mustards)</b>				
Turnips and related brassicas	3 to 6 lb	0.25	Apr 1 to Jun 1; Jun 15 to Nov 15	2 to 4 T

Your County ANR Extension Agent can help with options for summer cover crop and other decisions related to field management. Your crop insurance agent should have specific details on the steps taken for Prevented Planting. Consult with your crop insurance agent and the USDA RMA for other questions regarding Prevented Planting and what is allowed with a cover crop.



## Other Events

Hardin County Fair  
7/7/25 - 7/12/25

Kentucky State Fair  
8/14/25 - 8/24/25

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### Catch of the Day Burgers

#### Catch of the Day Burgers

- 1 quart boiling water
- 1 1/2 pounds boneless white fish
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 1/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley
- 1 clove finely chopped garlic or 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1/2 cup dry panko breadcrumbs
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 6 toasted whole wheat buns
- 1/8 cup tartar sauce (optional)

Bring 1 quart of water to a boil. Place fish fillets in boiling water. Cover and return to boil. Immediately lower heat, and simmer for 7 to 10 minutes or until fish flakes apart easily

with a fork. Drain and flake fish. In a bowl, mix beaten eggs, cheese, parsley, garlic or garlic powder, salt, and pepper together. Combine with fish. Stir just until blended. Chill in refrigerator for at least one hour. Shape chilled mixture into 6 patties, and roll in breadcrumbs. Heat oil in skillet over medium heat. Carefully place fish patties in pan. Cook the patties for 3 minutes on each side or until browned, turning only once. Drain on paper towels. Serve on toasted buns. Optional: add tartar sauce. Note this will increase the sodium.

Yield: 6 servings

Adapted from: "Fish & Game Cookbook," Bonnie Scott. 2013.

Nutrition Facts	
6 servings per recipe	
Serving size 1 sandwich (239g)	
Amount per serving	
Calories	520
% Daily Value*	
Total Fat 23g	29%
Saturated Fat 5g	25%
Trans Fat 0g	
Cholesterol 150mg	50%
Sodium 710mg	31%
Total Carbohydrate 41g	15%
Dietary Fiber 0g	0%
Total Sugars 5g	
Includes 0g Added Sugars	0%
Protein 36g	
Vitamin D 2mcg	10%
Calcium 194mg	15%
Iron 3mg	15%
Potassium 393mg	8%

\*The % Daily Value (DV) tells you how much a nutrient in a serving of food contributes to a daily diet. 2,000 calories a day is used for general nutrition advice.



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