

CUMBERLAND COUNTY

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWSLETTER

Vol. 8 Issue 3 · September 2023

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MONEY FOR ON-FARM INVESTMENTS AVAILABLE...

KADF

KENTUCKY AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

Cumberland County Conservation District

329 Keen Street

Burkesville, KY 42717

270-864-2606

wanda.gilbert@gmail.com

Visit cumberlandcokysoil.com for more details or directions.

COUNTY AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT PROGRAM (CAIP)

Applications will be available for Cumberland County's CAIP to assist farmers in making important on-farm investments.

Application Period:

September 15 – October 6, 2023

No applications will be accepted after October 6, 2023

Application Availability:

Cumberland County Conservation District

Monday – Friday 8:00am – 4:30pm

For More Information:

Contact Cumberland County Conservation District at 270-864-2606 or email

wanda.gilbert@gmail.com

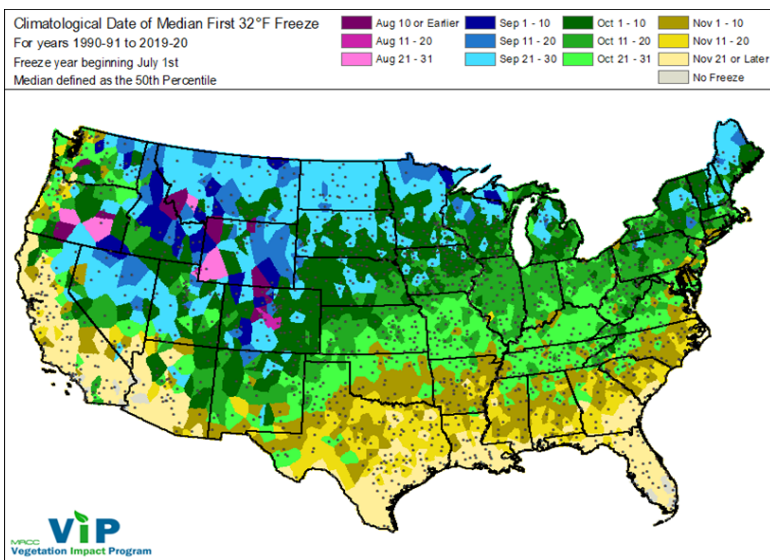
All applications are scored, based on the scoring criteria set by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board.



Tracking the First Fall Freeze

by Derrick Snyder -
National Weather Service Paducah, KY

As the calendar moves into October, nights continue to become longer, leaves begin to turn color, and first frosts and freezes begin to occur. The first freeze of the fall typically marks the end of the growing season. As shown on the map below, most locations across the Commonwealth typically see their first freeze of the season during the latter half of October into the early days of November.



Frost can often develop on plants even when thermometers show the temperature to be a few degrees above freezing. This is because most thermometers are mounted several feet above the ground, and the temperature a few inches from the ground can be colder than what a thermometer reads. This most often occurs on clear nights with calm winds.

To protect your plants from frosts and freezes, consider taking preventive measures like covering them with tarps or blankets in the evening before temperatures drop. This can help trap the ground heat and provide insulation. Additionally, placing mulch around the base of plants can help retain soil warmth. If possible, relocate potted plants indoors or to a sheltered area. Watering the plants before the onset of frost can also provide a slight protective effect, as water releases heat as it freezes, helping to moderate the immediate environment around the plants.

Free BQCA in the Month of September



The right time is **now.**
The right way is **BQCA.**

Thanks to a partnership and University of Kentucky are offering **FREE BQCA CERTIFICATION** online or through your county extension office **September 1st through September 30th, 2023.**





Snakes! Learn More, Fear Less

Source: [Matthew Springer](#), assistant extension professor of wildlife management

Around Kentucky, a fascinating world often misunderstood by many unfolds—the world of snakes. Despite their infamous reputation, these creatures are far more complex and essential to the state's ecosystem than meets the eye. More than 30 snake species live in Kentucky, but only four possess venom, while the rest contribute to the intricate balance of nature. Kentucky's diverse landscapes provide an ideal habitat for these often-maligned creatures. The venomous snakes, ranging from the secretive copperhead and Western cottonmouth, aka water moccasin, to the pygmy rattlesnake and the graceful timber rattlesnake, are vital to the state's environment. They often go unnoticed, keeping populations of mice and other rodents in check. Numerous non-venomous snakes such as the common garter snake and the North American black racer thrive throughout the state. The University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment offers a comprehensive website to help you identify

and learn more about snakes you may encounter around your home or farm. A user-friendly interface allows you to pinpoint snake species based on its geographic location and unique characteristics. A snake's head shape, body structure or color patterns all offer clues to help with identification. Whether you find a snake while hiking through the woods or exploring your own backyard, this platform will help you fight fear with information. Photographs and descriptions offer a visual encyclopedia for both venomous and non-venomous species in the region. If you come in close contact with a venomous snake, use caution and respect. You may learn to appreciate them from a safe distance and admire them in their natural habitats. The website details each snake's unique natural history and conservation status. With newfound knowledge, you may see snakes in a new, fresh light. Visit the website at <https://kysnakes.ca.uky.edu/>. For more information about Kentucky wildlife and other topics, contact the Cumberland County Cooperative Extension Service.



Stockpile Forages to Extend the Grazing Season

Source: Ray Smith, UK Plant and Soil Sciences Professor

Good pasture management can help extend the grazing season further into the fall and early winter. Take advantage of good growing conditions to obtain high-quality pasture for late fall and early winter grazing. Stockpiling helps broaden the pasture season for the cow herd, reduces feed and labor costs by lowering the amount of hay needed and provides an ideal location for the beef cow herd to winter and calve.

It's easy to begin to stockpile. Simply take cattle off pastures in late summer, apply nitrogen fertilizer and allow grass to accumulate growth through late fall. Then, put cattle on the pasture one section at a time until they've finished grazing the whole field.

Take soil samples for analyses to determine pasture requirements for phosphorus, potassium and lime. You'll need this information to renovate with clover in the spring.

Tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass are the best grasses to stockpile in Kentucky. Both retain green color and forage quality late into winter, are somewhat resistant to low temperatures and form a good sod. Tall fescue produces more fall and winter growth than Kentucky bluegrass.

Nitrogen and moisture are critical to successfully stockpiling grasses.

Apply nitrogen in mid-August. Topdress at the rate of 40 to 60 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre for Kentucky bluegrass. Use 40 to 100 pounds of actual nitrogen per acre on tall fescue.

Numerous studies show wise fertilizer use and timing results in high yields during fall and early winter. Tall fescue crude protein and digestibility are better during fall and early winter than at any other time of the year.

Yields can be very good when water is available during the stockpiling period. Tall fescue can produce two tons of dry matter up to late November. With adequate water, producers can achieve 25 pounds of dry matter for each pound of nitrogen used.

After frost, let cattle graze grass-legume fields quickly before plants deteriorate. Then, put animals on the stockpiled grass fields. For the most efficient use of stockpiled fields, establish a strip grazing system by using a temporary electric fence to section off areas of the field. The first grazing area should have water and mineral sources. When animals have grazed this area, move the fence to open a new strip. Repeat this process until the entire field has been grazed.

Stockpiled grass is an excellent choice for fall-calving cows because it can be used to meet high nutritional needs after calving and during the breeding season. Grazing stockpiled grasses may offer the most benefit to spring-calving cows in thin body condition during the fall. Growing, weaned cattle can be grazed on stockpiled fescue. Using stockpiled grasses helps lower feed costs when backgrounding cattle.

For more information about pasture management and other topics, contact the Cumberland Cooperative Extension Service.



Kentucky Women in Agriculture

24TH ANNUAL KWIA CONFERENCE
SOMERSET, KY OCTOBER 15-17, 2023

Registration is now open for the 2023 KWIA Conference. General registration for conference is \$125.00 and includes the following:

- One annual KWIA Membership
- General conference sessions on Monday & Tuesday
- Lunch on Monday
- Breakfast & Lunch on Tuesday
- Admission to the “Taste of Kentucky” dinner and event on Monday night.

Visit the following link or scan the QR code for registration:

kywomeninag.com/annual-conference



Foil Packet Beef and Vegetable Meal

Provided By:
Kentucky Beef Council

INGREDIENTS:

- 6 ounces refrigerated fully cooked beef Pot Roast, shredded or fully cooked steak, cubed
- 6 ounces prepared smoked Beef Sausage
- 1 cup butternut squash, diced
- 1 cup zucchini or yellow squash, sliced into 3/4 inch pieces and halved
- 2 ears sweet corn, cut in half
- 4 teaspoons vegetable oil
- 2 teaspoons all-purpose seasoning blend, such as Old Bay

COOKING:

1. Combine beef and vegetables in large bowl. Add oil and seasoning; toss to coat.
2. Preheat grill to medium heat (approximately 350°F).
3. Place a 12" x 12" square of heavy-duty aluminum foil down on work surface. Add 1/4 of beef and vegetable mixture to center of foil. Fold right and left edges in and roll together to close. Fold top and bottom edges in and roll to close package. Repeat with remaining mixture for a total of 4 packets.
4. Grill for 10 to 12 minutes until vegetables are tender.
5. Cook's Tip: Packets can also be prepared in a 350°F oven. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes.

Nutrition information per serving, 4: 360 Calories; 216 Calories from fat; 24g Total Fat (8.6 g Saturated Fat; 0.3 g Trans Fat; 3.3 g Polyunsaturated Fat; 4.7 g Monounsaturated Fat); 75 mg Cholesterol; 841 mg Sodium; 16.5 g Total Carbohydrate; 2.6 g Dietary Fiber; 20 g Protein; 0 mg Calcium; 2.4 mg Iron; 440 mg Potassium; 0.1 mg Riboflavin; 3.2 mg NE Niacin; 0.3 mg Vitamin B6; 0.9 mcg Vitamin B12; 143 mg Phosphorus; 3.2 mg Zinc; 12 mcg Selenium; 61.5 mg Choline. This recipe is an excellent source of Protein, Vitamin B12, Zinc, and Selenium; and a good source of Iron, Vitamin B6, Phosphorus, and Choline

UPCOMING EVENTS

Clinton-Cumberland Cattlemen's Meeting

September 28th, 2023 | 6pm CT
at the Cumberland Co. Extension Office
Dr. Jimmy Henning presenting

Christmas Door Swags

November 6th, 2023 | 1pm CT
at the Cumberland Co. Extension Office.
Instructor: Kara Back

Kentucky Fruit and Vegetable Conference

January 2 – 4, 2024, Bowling Green, KY

Cumberland County Gardeners

Gardeners meet the 4th Thursday at 10am at
the Cumberland Co. Extension Office.
Schedule subject to change, call to check
schedule.

IMPORTANT!

REGISTER


If you plan on attending any of the events,
please call the Cumberland County Extension
Office to register.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on the events, please
visit our website and click "Events":
cumberland.ca.uky.edu



Chelsey Anderson,
Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources

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 capick3@uky.edu

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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.