CARTER COUNTY AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWSLETTER

June & July 2025

Cooperative Extension Service
Carter County
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What's Inside	

Highlights:

⇒ CAIP receipts are due to the Soil Conservation Office by 3:30 PM on June 30th!

⇒ Please take this quick survey if you participate in Ag Extension programs.

⇒ We are out of funds for Senior Farmer's Market Voucher cards. If you received funds this year don't forget your appointment on June 11th in Grayson or June 12th in Olive Hill. Please bring your ID.

Enjoy your newsletter,

Rebecca Konopka

Rebecca Konopka,
Carter County Extension Agent for
Agriculture & Natural Resources Education

Upcoming Events

Denotes events where preregistration is required. Call 474-6686 or email Rebecca.k@uky.edu to register.

More details available at https://carter.ca.uky.edu/anr.

Little Sandy Beekeepers Association

Tue, Jun 3 2025, 6:30pm Carter County Extension Office

Speaker: Morgan Murphy Topic: How to Make Chapstick

Hike & Learn

Fri, Jun 6 2025, 9:30am Daniel Boone Forest Visitor Center

Call 474-6686 to ride in the Extension van.

District Board

Tue, Jun 10 2025, 10:00am Carter County Extension Office

Olive Hill Farmer's Market Opening Day

Mon, Jun 16 2025, 3:00pm Olive Hill Farmer's Market

Grayson Farmer's Market Opening Day

Sat, Jun 21 2025, 9:00am Grayson Farmer's Market

Little Sandy Beekeepers Association

Tue, Jul 1 2025, 6:30pm Carter County Extension Office

Speaker: Jim Coss Topic: Harvesting Honey

Yak & Learn

Tue, Jul 15 2025, 5:00pm Grayson Lake Clifty Ramp

Olive Hill Farmer's Market Kid's Day

Mon, Jul 28 2025, 3:00pm Olive Hill Farmer's Market

Grayson Farmer's Market Kid's Day

Thu, Jul 31 2025, 2:00pm Grayson Farmer's Market

Little Sandy Beekeepers Association

Tue, Aug 5 2025, 6:30pm Carter County Extension Office

Grayson Market
Shed behind the office
94 Fairground Dr.

Carter County FARMER'S MARKET

Olive Hill Market
Save-a-lot parking lot
131 Jessica Lane

Important Dates to Remember

Opening Day

In Olive Hill: Monday, June 16th 3:00PM
In Grayson: Saturday, June 21st 9:00AM

Kid's Day

Sponsored by Anthem & Carter County Ag Advancement Council

In Olive Hill: Monday, July 28th 3:00PM
In Grayson: Thursday, July 31st 2:00PM

Pop-up Market

Chapel House & Friendship House

Tuesday, July 1st 5:00PM
Tuesday, August 5th 5:00PM
Tuesday, September 2nd 5:00PM
Tuesday, October 7th 5:00PM

Seasonal Hours

Grayson
Thursday 2:00PM-Sell Out
Saturday 9:00AM-Sell Out

Olive Hill
Monday 3:00PM-Sell Out
Wednesday 8:00AM-Sell Out
Saturday 8:00AM-Sell Out

Cooperative Extension Service
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

Cooperative Extension Service

Hike & Learn

Escape the Ordinary and Embrace the Extraordinary

Join us on a journey where the trails whisper tales and every step is an adventure waiting to unfold. We invite you to explore the great outdoors with our Hike and Learn program.

Please wear closed-toe shoes and bring your own snacks & drinks.

Hikes canceled due to inclement weather will not be rescheduled.

ROWAN COUNTY
June 6 @ 9:30 AM

Daniel Boone Forest Visitor Center

Minor E. Clark Fish Hatchery

Amburgey & Lockege Rock Trails

Meet us at the visitor center or reserve your spot in the Extension van by calling 474-6686.

For More Details: (606)474-6686 https://carter.ca.uky.edu/anr Facebook. @CarterCoKYAg

Cooperative Extension Service

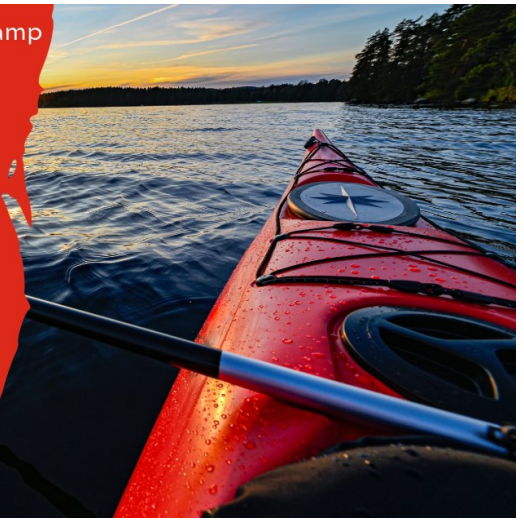
MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

July 15 @ 5:00- Grayson Lake Clifty Ramp

YAK & LEARN

As we paddle toward the breathtaking Grotto Falls, we'll uncover fascinating water quality facts that will deepen your appreciation for the natural beauty around us.

Please arrive by 4:30 to unload your kayak.
Life jackets must be worn at all times.



Cooperative Extension Service

FIVCO Ag

Boyd	(606) 739-5184	Meredith Hall
Carter	(606) 474-6686	Rebecca Konopka
Elliott	(606) 738-6400	Jacob Ison
Greenup	(606) 836-0201	Linda Hieneman
Lawrence	(606) 673-9495	Lane Hall

Registration required!

Scan here to register.

Myths About Tall Fescue Explored

~excerpt of article by Dr. Matt Poore of NC State in Novel Notes

Tall Fescue has become entrenched across the middle part of the eastern USA, creating a region called the Tall Fescue Belt. Many farms were planted to tall fescue in the 1960s, and many of those original stands are still productive today. Unfortunately, the variety planted, Kentucky-31, is known to host a fungus called an "endophyte", which produces toxins.

The incredible agronomic characteristics of Tall Fescue are what makes it a wicked problem. Essentially, the toxins that are good for the plant are very detrimental to livestock. There are many things you can do to help, including diluting pastures with other forage species, reducing fertilizer application and clipping seed heads. The ultimate solution is to replace the toxic tall fescue with the non-toxic "Novel Endophtye Tall Fescue", or some other species of forage. Your context will determine if you really have a problem with fescue or not. If you have high performance cattle, fescue toxicosis will keep them from realizing their potential. If you are finishing animals for local meat, fescue toxicosis will increase your days to harvest and reduce meat quality. If you have great stands of tall fescue and few symptoms, then you might not have a problem. I watched a video this week that promoted some truths and some myths about tall fescue that I thought I would address here:

Tall Fescue is a GREAT grass! This one I think is both a Myth and a Truth. In the tall fescue belt there is no other species that can give all the benefits of tall fescue. When Kentucky 31 was released, it quickly became the conservation plant of choice. It established quickly and stubbornly persisted year after year on marginal land. It was promoted as the "first permanent pasture grass" for the south, and it lived up to that name.

Novel Endophyte Tall Fescue is too expensive to plant. This one is another myth. A farmer with excellent stands of KY31 tall fescue should carefully evaluate their situation before any conversion to novel is considered. If a pasture needs to be renovated, one thing I can clearly recommend to livestock producers is "don't plant KY31". It is true that KY31 will be the least expensive seed you will buy. Today you can purchase KY31 for about $1.50 per lb, while typical Novel Endophyte Tall Fescue seed will cost about $4.00 per lb. Assuming a planting rate of 15 lbs per acre, that is a

difference of $37.50 per acre. If you run a budget and calculate the total cost of pasture renovation it will come to at least $150 in costs other than seed. So, the truth is that renovation is expensive no matter what you plant. My economic calculations show that if you plant Novel Endophyte Tall Fescue it will pay you back in about 4 years. If you plant KY31 in the same situation it will take 8 years to payback. So the real statement should be "pasture renovation is so expensive you can't afford to plant an inferior product like KY31".

In the end, each farmer in the tall fescue belt has to make a decision on how to manage the problem. Some with relatively tolerant animals, with cooler conditions, or who simply lack the farming skills needed to renovate pastures will stick with what they know. Other farmers will evaluate pastures and strategically renovate to provide better nutrition for high requirement animals. Renovation is costly, so it should be used to upgrade the forage system. Plant something like native warm season grasses or novel endophyte tall fescue that will compliment a base of toxic tall fescue.

To learn more about Tall Fescue read the book "The Wonder Grass: The Story of Tall Fescue in the United States", which is available for free download. Also, visit http://www.grasslandrenewal.org to learn more about Novel Endophyte Tall Fescue technology and upcoming educational opportunities.

See full link to article here: https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/comparison-of-commercially-available-novel-endophyte-tall-fescue-forage-varieties

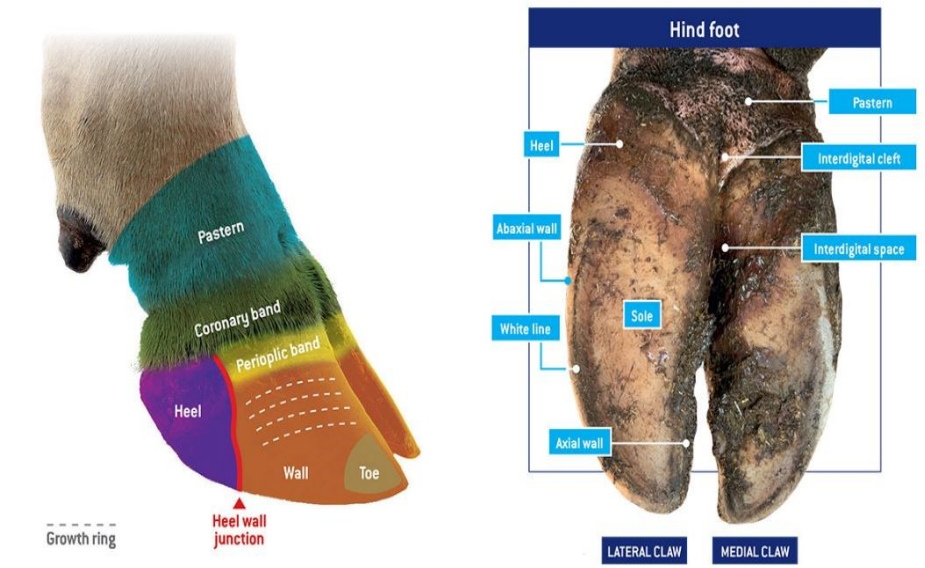
Address Lameness Cases Sooner Rather Than Later

Dr. Michelle Arnold, Ruminant Extension Veterinarian, University of Kentucky

There are many causes of lameness in beef cattle but nearly 90% of all lameness cases are due to something wrong in the foot. Since beef cattle producers generally make the initial diagnosis and treatment of lameness cases in their own cattle, it is important to establish assessment and treatment guidelines with your veterinarian so you will know when cases are failing to respond and in need of further examination. Although interdigital necrobacillosis (foot rot) is by far the most common hoof disorder in pastured beef cattle, it is not a condition to ignore

and see if it gets better on its own. In fact, most disorders of the hoof, if not addressed quickly, can progress to a much more serious infection involving the bone, synovial structures, tendons and ligaments of the foot, collectively termed “deep digital sepsis”. Treatment at that advanced stage is expensive, radical and rarely successful.

One of the challenging aspects of discussing beef cattle lameness is the vocabulary utilized in bovine hoof anatomy (see Figure 1). A bovine “foot” is composed of two toes or “digits” that are typically referred to as “claws”. The claw is the constant interface between the animal and the environment. Each claw is covered by a rigid “hoof capsule”.



Parts of the bovine hoof.

Figure 1: Parts of the Bovine Hoof. Accessed from https://www.wavegoodbyetopain.co.uk/foot-anatomy-and-biomechanics.html 4/8/2025

When viewing the hoof from the bottom, the “lateral claw” is the outside claw while the “medial claw” refers to the inside claw. The area in between the claws is the “interdigital space” and where the claws come together is termed the “interdigital cleft”. The “hoof wall” is by far the strongest and most important structure for weight bearing and is equivalent to the human fingernail. The “axial” wall is located in the interdigital space while the “abaxial” wall is located on the outer side of the claw. The “coronary band”, located at the hairline at the top of the hoof wall, is where the new horn grows from, and it takes about a year to reach the

toe end. The “pastern” is the joint between the long cannon bone and the hoof. The “fetlock” is the joint above the pastern joint and is considered above the foot.

To begin the assessment of a newly discovered case of lameness, the first question to answer is whether the affected foot is swollen. Since the hoof capsule is rigid and unable to expand, swelling will be seen in the tissues immediately above the coronary band. Prior to assessment, moving the animal from deep grass or mud on to a solid surface and cleaning off any excessive dirt and debris will allow better visualization of the hoof. Start behind the animal, viewing the foot from the rear, and compare the distance between the dewclaws of the affected foot to that of the unaffected feet. The dewclaws will be spread further apart in a swollen foot than in a normal foot. The next question to answer is whether the swelling is symmetrical (as in cases of foot rot) or is one side more swollen than the other (as in cases of deep digital sepsis)? To do this, envision an imaginary line (see Figure 2) that begins in the interdigital space and bisects the foot up the middle of the leg (on the “axial midline”). The swelling from foot rot is typically symmetrical because the infection begins in the interdigital space. In contrast, deep sepsis causes most of the swelling on the side of the infected digit (claw). A second method to assess symmetry is to compare the widths of the heel bulbs on the affected foot. In cases of deep sepsis, the heel bulb will be much wider on the affected side while in foot rot cases, the heel bulbs will be similarly sized. To reiterate, the important take-home message is that deep digital sepsis must be addressed much more aggressively than foot rot and veterinary intervention is required as soon as possible to determine the best course of action. Antibiotics alone will not be

Figure 2: The blue line represents the imaginary line from the interdigital space and up the axial midline. Note the swelling is equally distributed on each side of the line in this case of foot rot. (Accessed from Veterinary Clinics of North America: Food Animal Practice; Volume 33, Issue 2, July 2017)

enough to treat sepsis; amputation of the claw or surgical intervention to drain the infected area will be necessary to try to resolve the lameness.

Common causes of lameness in beef cattle that typically do not result in visible swelling of the foot include uncomplicated digital dermatitis (hairy heel warts), sole or toe ulcers, laminitis (founder), subsolar abscesses, or injuries higher up in the leg. The absence of swelling does not mean the animal does not need prompt attention. For example, untreated sole or toe ulcers can lead to abscess formation which requires more aggressive hoof trimming, antibiotics and longer healing time. Working with a veterinarian early in complicated lameness cases will facilitate arriving at the right diagnosis and the correct treatment for that disorder.

As mentioned previously, foot rot is the most common condition observed in pastured beef cattle. This is an infectious disease caused by bacteria invading the interdigital skin and subcutaneous tissues, often due to trauma to the soft skin between the claws. Warm, moist environmental conditions, especially when cattle congregate and defecate in shady wet areas, softens the interdigital skin. The initiating injury may be caused by walking on rough surfaces, sharp gravel, twigs, stubble, frozen or hardened mud that tear the softened skin. Mineral deficiencies of zinc, selenium and copper contribute as well. The disease begins with a sudden onset of lameness where the animal tip toes on the affected foot. The interdigital skin and soft tissues become red and swollen, causing the claws to spread apart. The swelling is symmetrical and extends from the top of the hoof to the dewclaws and sometimes higher. Later, the swollen skin cracks open and dead/decaying tissue with a foul odor is present. Early treatment with appropriate injectable antibiotic therapy such as with Ceftiofur (Excede®, Excenel®), Florfenicol (Nuflor®, Resflor®), Oxytetracycline, Tulathromycin (Draxxin®, other generic), or Tylosin (Tylan®) will usually resolve this problem but delays in treatment or not following up on recovery after treatment may result in deep digital sepsis and a poor outcome. Do not forget the possibility of a foreign body that may be stuck deep within the interdigital space; improvement will only come after the foreign object is removed.

In summary, following some basic rules (see Box 1) when approaching a lameness case on the farm should help determine if it can be appropriately managed with antibiotics alone or if veterinary examination is required. In addition to these basic rules, the Zinpro Corporation and Kansas State

University have developed a systematic approach to diagnosing beef cattle lameness called “The Step-Up™ Program” (see Figure 3). The total program includes the identification and treatment of lameness as well as information on good nutrition, proper facility design, and appropriate animal handling and husbandry practices to reduce the lameness incidence within the beef industry. Ultimately, improvement in animal welfare, appropriate use of antibiotics, and reduction in the costs associated with lameness will result from a little extra time spent assessing the problem before reaching for the bottle on the shelf.

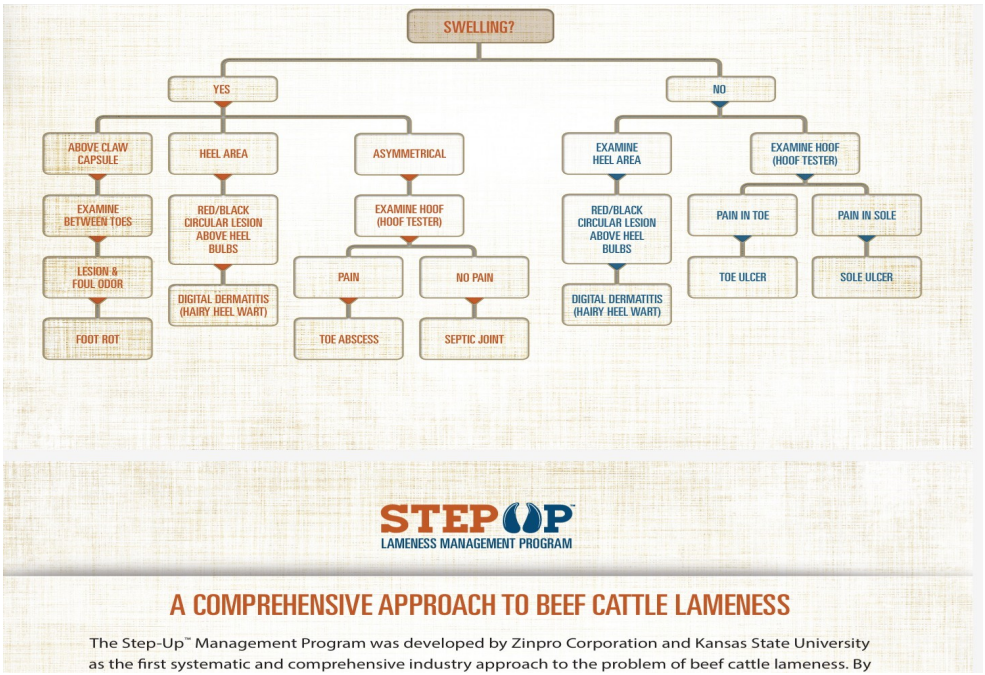


Figure 3: From “Identifying and Managing the Common Causes of Beef Cattle Lameness”

Box 1: Thumb Rules (Dr. David Van Metre et al; AABP Proceedings, September 2005, Vol. 38)

1. Causes of lameness can often be categorized according to the presence or absence of visible swelling of the soft tissues of the foot.
2. Because interdigital necrobacillosis (foot rot) is centered in the interdigital skin, early cases are characterized by swelling that is symmetrical relative to the longitudinal (axial) midline of the foot.
3. Deep sepsis of the digit is characterized by swelling that is asymmet-

rical relative to the longitudinal (axial) midline of the foot. Deep sepsis should be addressed immediately by a veterinarian

4. On-farm lameness treatment protocols should include an expected deadline for resolution - once the deadline is reached, if the animal has not recovered, the veterinarian should be consulted.
5. Cattle that become lame from digital wounds (punctures, lacerations) should be scheduled for prompt veterinary examination because deep sepsis almost always results from this type of injury.

How Do You Select Your Bulls?

Darrh Bullock, University of Kentucky and Matt Spangler, University of Nebraska

Bull selection is one of the most important decisions that a beef producer makes and can have a lasting impact on profitability. Factors such as the market endpoint of calves (e.g., newly weaned or finished cattle), whether replacements will be retained, and the level of nutritional management provided to the cow herd all impact which traits should be selected for and at what level. Understanding this complex relationship can be the difference between buying a "good" bull and buying the right bull.

The eBEEF.org team, a group of beef cattle geneticists from across the US, is trying to determine how beef producers are currently selecting their bulls and will use this information to develop educational materials to help improve this process. Knowing which traits to select for is often not the problem, it is the degree to which each should be emphasized that can be highly variable from producer to producer and can often be challenging to determine. Too often this process is more 'seat of the pants' rather than by factors affecting profitability. For example, trying to find the optimal level of calving ease without sacrificing profit by not emphasizing traits like sale weight of the calves enough.

To assess how beef producers are selecting bulls, within their level of management, we are asking you to fill out a brief survey. This should take approximately 10 minutes of your time and provide a wealth of information for the beef industry! This information will be used to compare the survey results to values generated by iGENDEC, a software package that determines the most profitable level of emphasis that should be placed on each trait within a specific production system.

Several incentives are being offered to encourage participation in this sur-

vey. The first is a random drawing for five $100 gift cards generously donated by the Beef Improvement Federation (beefimprovement.org). The second is a special webinar that will be offered to everyone that completes a survey, and provides their email address, to discuss the findings of the survey and resulting bull selection strategies. Lastly, and possibly most importantly, knowledge gained by beef producers by going through this process and the entire beef industry through better bull selection decisions.

Survey Link: https://corexmsd9bfwdhxgbhmw.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eFqYgoQpZMJLRLE

Botrytis Gray Mold

Description & Damage

Botrytis gray mold, caused by the fungus *Botrytis cinerea*, is a disease that damages vegetables in various growing environments, especially humid ones. It creates tan-brown, fuzzy lesions on plant parts, particularly flowers and fruit, and can cause stem death and fruit rot, even post-harvest.

Management

- Increase plant spacing.
- Prune plants to improve air flow.
- Monitor humidity in greenhouses and high tunnels.
- Remove and destroy heavily infected plants and dead or damaged plant parts.
- Avoid wounding plants.
- Avoid overhead watering.
- Consult your local county extension office for more management practices.

Learn more about pest management by checking out Kentucky Pest News!

Source: Kimberly Leonberger and Nicole Gauthier
An Equal Opportunity Organization.

WATERING TIPS FOR YOUR SUMMER GARDEN

While consistent watering is crucial for establishing vegetable plants and during flowering/fruit development, optimal quality for some vegetables benefits from managed water limits.

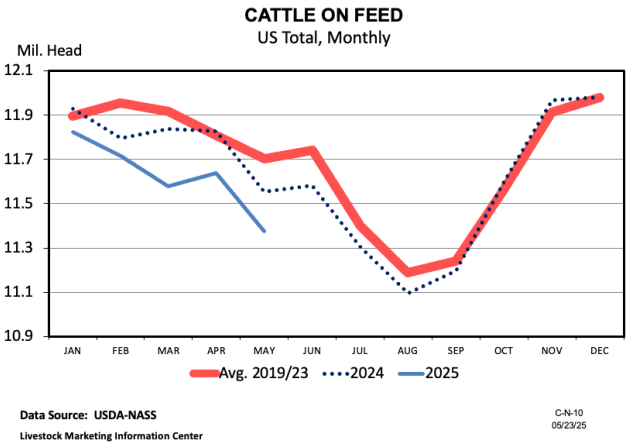
Most vegetables need 1-2 inches of water weekly during critical growth stages. Continuous harvesters like tomatoes and peppers require steady moisture to stay productive and prevent issues.

Visit UK Extension Publication ID-128 for more information.

Source: Richard Durham, UK Extension Horticulture
An Equal Opportunity Organization.

May Cattle on Feed: Dressed Weights, Drought, and Disruptions to Trade

By: James Mitchell, University of Arkansas



The National Agricultural Statistics Service released the May Cattle on Feed report on Friday. As of May 1, 2025, the total inventory of cattle and calves on feed in feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 or more head reached 11.38 million, down 1.5 percent from a year ago. April placements totaled 1.61 million head, 2.6 percent lower than last year. April cattle marketings totaled 1.83 million head, down 2.5 percent. All figures were within the range of pre-report expectations, with no major surprises.

Although the report held no surprises, several emerging themes in 2025 are worth highlighting. First, dressed weights continue to provide a buffer against tighter cattle supplies. One of the most notable trends in 2024 was heavier-than-expected dressed weights, averaging 27 pounds above 2023 levels, and breaking from typical seasonal patterns. As a result, USDA repeatedly revised its 2024 beef production forecast in the WASDE report. From January to December, the forecast was raised by 4 percent, or 925 million pounds.

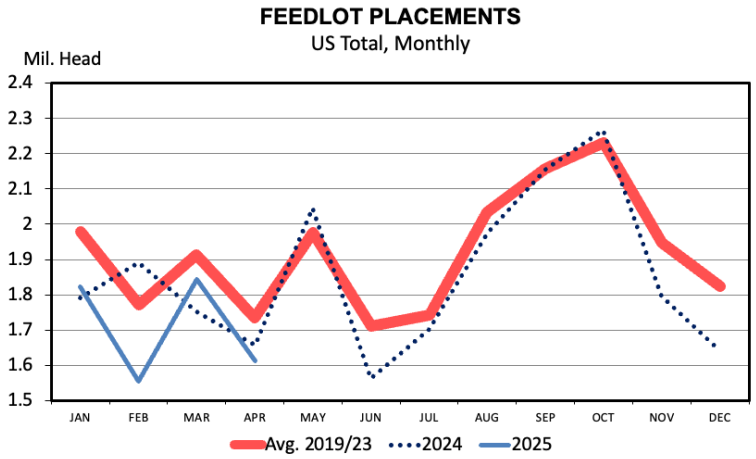
This isn't a criticism of anyone's forecast. What dressed weights did in 2024 was remarkable, and that trend has carried into 2025. So far this year, dressed weights are averaging 875 pounds, 23 pounds heavier than the same period in 2024. As a result, USDA has revised its 2025 beef production forecast upward, narrowing the expected year-over-year decline from 4 percent in January to just 2 percent in the most recent WASDE report. Note a 2 percent decline in beef production is still significant.

A second theme is drought, which remains an ongoing concern with major implications for feeder cattle markets and herd rebuilding efforts. Ac-

cording to the most recent USDA estimates, more than one-quarter of the U.S. cattle inventory is in areas currently experiencing drought conditions. Nationally, April placements were down 2.6 percent year over year, though there was notable variation across states. Placements were up 3 percent in Kansas, flat in Nebraska, and up 2 percent in Oklahoma, but down 6 percent in Texas. It's hard to know how much of this is directly tied to drought, but it's worth watching closely. May is typically a seasonally high-placement month as feedlots look to reload heading into summer.

The third theme, though not reflected in this month's report, will appear in the June report: the renewed restriction on cattle imports from Mexico. This action is in response to ongoing concerns about New World screwworm in Mexico and Central America. Trade restrictions were first implemented in November 2024, then lifted in early February, and have now been reinstated. The most recent suspension will affect feedlot placements in the final weeks of May and will continue to do so until the restriction is lifted. Cattle imports from Mexico are an important source of feeder cattle for U.S. feedlots, accounting for roughly 4 percent of total placements depending on the year. Given the current cyclical low in domestic cattle supplies, the impacts could be more pronounced.

While this month's Cattle on Feed report did not reveal any major surprises, there is still plenty to monitor in the months ahead. From a supply standpoint, we have a fairly clear picture of where we are. The more pressing question is when, and under what conditions, herd rebuilding will begin. A good place to look for answers is the Cattle on Feed report.



Kentucky's 2025 Periodical Cicada Emergence

2024 was famous for the Double Brood Emergence, but Kentucky will see more cicada action in 2025. Nearly every county east of Ohio County in western Kentucky will see some periodical cicada activity. These amazing insects have been below-ground for 17 years, what can we expect when they start to emerge?

Things will start around mid-May...

Periodical cicada nymphs start moving out of the ground when soil temperatures reach about 64 degrees. This matches up with the spring bloom of irises. Then, Brood XIV will arrive!

May
Nymphs emerge from the ground

June
Adults sing, mate, and lay eggs

July
Periodical cicadas die out for the year, and will be gone for the next 17 years

Periodical cicada fast facts

There are three different species that will emerge in 2025

The cicadas that emerge next year were born in the year 2008

Cicadas "count" the seasons below ground to know when to emerge

Brood XIV is mostly concentrated in Kentucky, call them the "bourbon brood"!

Snakes, turkeys, foxes, and lots of wildlife devour them

Common questions and concerns about periodical cicadas

When millions or billions of bugs come out of the ground, people have questions! Luckily, there is very little to worry about with these insects but let's cover some specific FAQs.

17

Why seventeen years?
The long period between emergences means nothing only eats these cicadas.

Safe for pets?
Dogs and cats can safely consume cicadas in moderation.

Why so loud?!
Male cicadas sing together to attract females, the noise is a bug concert.

Managing dead cicadas?
Usually they can mulched or mowed into landscape.

Safe for people to eat?
If you don't have a shellfish allergy, eat them after cooking and in moderation

Where to find?
Most commonly found near oaks by streams, creeks, and rivers. Also by fruit trees.

Cicadas and new trees

Periodical cicadas lay their eggs in tree branches by cutting slits in the bark. Big, mature trees can handle this. New trees or fruit trees should be protected though. The best option is to purchase "cicada netting" which is gauged to exclude females from trees. Secure excess netting to the tree around the trunk where there are no branches. It will look a bit like a lollipop when finished.

Cooperative Extension Service

Diseases that Appear in Ponded Corn

Crazy Top

Brown Spot

- **Crazy Top**, caused by *Sclerophthora macrospora*, results in distorted tassels in flooded areas. Symptoms include stunted growth and yellow leaves.
- **Physoderma brown spot**, caused by the fungus *Physoderma maydis*, infects plants in wet whorls. Symptoms include tiny brown or yellow lesions on leaves, midribs (often banded), stalks, sheaths, and husks.
- Crazy Top and Brown Spot rarely require intervention, typically only posing issues with brief whorl submersion. Better drainage and removal of infected plants can lower future risk.

Source: Kentucky Pest News

Cooperative Extension Service

Container Gardening

Turning small spaces into great gardens!

Grow anywhere! Perfect for apartments, balconies, and small spaces!

Almost any vegetable will grow this way, yet leafy greens, herbs, bush beans, peppers, and cherry tomatoes shine.

Container material is less crucial than drainage, volume, and weight. Use pots with drainage holes and elevate them slightly.

Fill containers with a soilless mix, include slow-release fertilizer, and support tall or vining plants during planting.

Source: Rick Durham, UK Horticulture Professor

Sprayer Clinic

University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

Carter County
94 Fairground Drive
Grayson, KY 41143

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CARTER COUNTY AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWSLETTER