

PLOWING AHEAD

APRIL 2025

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

 Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

Cooperative Extension Service
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Richmond, KY 40475
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CAIP Cost-Share Sign up April 7 - April 28

Applications for 2025 CAIP program are available April 7 through April 28, at the Madison County Conservation District

You can pick one up Monday-Friday 8:30 am to 4:00 pm at the USDA Service Center/Madison County Conservation District, located at 1024 Ival James Blvd., Richmond, or by regular mail. Electronic versions of the application are available on the district website: By email at mccdky76@gmail.com. Completed applications must be returned to the USDA Service Center/Madison County Conservation District drop box to the left of the front door, scanned and emailed to the address above, or by regular mail at the address above. Applications must be turned in by April 28, at 4:00 pm or postmarked by then. Only one individual per household, regardless of county, is eligible to apply for CAIP funds within a program year. Proof of residency is required to verify that multiple individuals within the same household are not applying. Additionally, all applicants must be a Kentucky resident. Residency is determined by a valid Kentucky driver's license or photo ID and one utility bill. The address on both the ID and utility bill must match the address provided on the CAIP application. A copy of both shall be submitted and placed in the file with the application.

For questions, please contact the Madison County Conservation District at 859-624-1981 ext. 3. If there is no answer, please leave a message and someone will return your call.

THE CLOSING OF A CHAPTER...

Congratulations to Shari Shanks on her upcoming retirement after 26+ years of faithful service to the Madison County Extension Office and to our Community. Her work and guidance have greatly contributed to our successes and in many ways would not have been possible without her. Amanda and I are especially grateful for her work with us in the Agriculture and Horticulture programs. Shari, thank you for believing in the Extension Mission, for your character and friendship. Best wishes for the future.



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

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.
Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notice

Brandon Sears

Brandon Sears County Extension
Agent for Agriculture & Natural
Resources 859-623-4072
brandon.sears@uky.edu

PRODUCERS CAN NOW ENROLL IN ARC AND PLC

USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting enrollments and elections for the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) for 2025 from Jan. 21 to April 15. ARC and PLC provide financial protections to farmers from substantial drops in crop prices or revenues and are vital economic safety nets for most American farms. The American Relief Act, 2025 extended many Farm Bill-authorized programs for another year, including ARC and PLC. Producers can elect coverage and enroll in ARC-County (ARC-CO) or PLC, which provide crop-by-crop protection, or ARC-Individual (ARC-IC), which protects the entire farm. Although election changes for 2025 are optional, producers must enroll through a signed contract each year. Also, if a producer has a multi-year contract on the farm it will continue for 2025 unless an election change is made. If producers do not submit their election revision by the April 15 deadline, their election remains the same as their 2024 election for commodities on the farm from the prior year. Farm owners cannot enroll in either program unless they have a share interest in the cropland.

Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium grain rice, safflower seed, seed cotton, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat. USDA also reminds producers that ARC and PLC elections and enrollments can impact eligibility for some crop insurance products including Supplemental Coverage Option, Enhanced Coverage Option and, for cotton producers, the Stacked Income Protection Plan (commonly referred to as STAX). For more information on ARC and PLC, producers can visit the [ARC and PLC webpage](#) or contact your Madison/Estill County USDA Service Center at 859-624-1980.

USDA EXPEDITING \$10 BILLION IN DIRECT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins, on National Agriculture Day, announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is issuing up to \$10 billion directly to agricultural producers through the Emergency Commodity Assistance Program (ECAP) for the 2024 crop year. Administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), ECAP will help agricultural producers mitigate the impacts of increased input costs and falling commodity prices.

USDA EXPEDITING \$10 BILLION IN DIRECT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS

Authorized by the American Relief Act, 2025, these economic relief payments are based on planted and prevented planted crop acres for eligible commodities for the 2024 crop year. To streamline and simplify the delivery of ECAP, FSA will begin sending pre-filled applications to producers who submitted acreage reports to FSA for 2024 eligible ECAP commodities soon after the signup period opens on March 19, 2025. Producers do not have to wait for their pre-filled ECAP application to apply. They can visit fsa.usda.gov/ecap to apply using a login.gov account or contact their local FSA office to request an application once the signup period opens.

Eligible Commodities and Payment Rates

The commodities below are eligible for these per-acre payment rates:

- Wheat - \$30.69
- Corn - \$42.91
- Sorghum - \$42.52
- Barley - \$21.67
- Oats - \$77.66
- Upland cotton & Extra-long staple cotton - \$84.74
- Long & medium grain rice - \$76.94
- Peanuts - \$75.51
- Soybeans - \$29.76
- Dry peas - \$16.02
- Lentils - \$19.30
- Small Chickpeas - \$31.45
- Large Chickpeas - \$24.02

Eligible oilseeds:

- Canola - \$31.83
- Crambe - \$19.08
- Flax - \$20.97
- Mustard - \$11.36
- Rapeseed - \$23.63
- Safflower - \$26.32
- Sesame - \$16.83
- Sunflower - \$27.23

Producer Eligibility

Eligible producers must report 2024 crop year planted and prevented planted acres to FSA on an FSA-578, Report of Acreage form. Producers who have not previously reported 2024 crop year acreage or filed a notice of loss for prevented planted crops must submit an acreage report by the Aug. 15, 2025, deadline. Eligible producers can visit fsa.usda.gov/ecap for eligibility and payment details.

Applying for ECAP

Producers must submit ECAP applications to their local FSA county office by Aug. 15, 2025. Only one application is required for all ECAP eligible commodities nationwide. ECAP applications can be submitted to FSA in-person, electronically using [Box and One-Span](#), by fax or by applying online at fsa.usda.gov/ecap utilizing a secure login.gov account.

STRATEGIES FOR MANAGING THE SPRING FLUSH

CHRIS D. TEUTSCH, UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CENTER AT PRINCETON

In March and April grass growth in the Commonwealth's pastures goes from 0 to 60 mph in just a few short weeks. We often find ourselves impatiently waiting for grass to start growing and then just a few short weeks later wondering what we are going to do with it all! The following suggestions can help you to optimize spring grass growth and utilization.

- Implement rotational grazing. To fully utilize the spring flush of pasture growth YOU must be in control of grazing. In a continuous grazing system, the cows are in charge. By utilizing rotational stocking, you start to make the decisions. Implementing a rotational stocking system may be as simple as closing some gates or stringing up some polywire.
- Feed a little hay in late winter and early spring. It is tempting to just let cattle roam and pick pastures for early grass growth, but this can set pastures back and reduce overall dry matter production. It is important to restrict cattle to one area, feed a little hay, and allow pastures to accumulate 4 to 5" of growth before starting to graze.
- Start grazing at 4 to 5" of growth. Another common mistake that graziers make is waiting too long to start grazing. If you wait until the first paddock is ready to graze, 8-10" of growth, by the time you reach the last paddock it will be out of control. Starting a little bit early allows you to establish a "grazing wedge" (Figure 1).
- Rotate animals rapidly. It is important to realize that grazing pastures closely and repeatedly as they initiate growth in early spring can reduce production for the entire season. Therefore, it is important to keep animals moving rapidly through the system. The general rule is that if grass is growing rapidly then your rotation should be rapid. This will allow you to stay ahead of the grass by topping it off and keeping it in a vegetative state.
- Do not apply spring nitrogen. Applying nitrogen in the spring will make the problem of too much grass at once even worse. In many cases you are better off applying nitrogen in late summer or early fall to stimulate growth for winter stockpiling.
- Remove most productive paddocks from rotation and harvest for hay. Graze all paddocks until the pasture growth is just about to get away from you and then remove those productive paddocks from your rotation and allow them to accumulate growth for hay or baleage harvest.
- Increase stocking rate in the spring. An alternative to harvesting excess forage as hay or baleage is to increase your stocking rate by adding more animal units in the spring and then decreasing animal numbers as plant growth slows due to higher temperature during the summer months. While this is a viable approach, it is not practical on smaller or part-time operations.

Even out seasonal distribution of forage by adding warm-season grasses. Adding a well-adapted warm-season grass that produces most of its growth in July and August would allow you to concentrate grazing on your cool-season paddocks during periods of rapid growth (spring flush). After cool-season grass growth slows in late spring and early summer, animals can be shifted in the warm-season paddocks for summer grazing.

STRATEGIES FOR MANAGING THE SPRING FLUSH

CHRIS D. TEUTSCH, UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CENTER AT PRINCETON

- Bush-hog out of control pastures. The benefits of clipping include maintaining pastures in a vegetative state, encouraging regrowth, and controlling weeds. Clipping pastures costs money, so make sure that the primary reason for bush-hogging is pasture management, not aesthetics.
- Stockpile out of control pastures for summer grazing. Although forage quality decreases as the plant matures, the quality of spring stockpiled pasture is sufficient for dry cows and in some cases can result in reasonable gains on growing animals during the summer months. This is especially true if using novel endophyte tall fescue and the pastures were clipped at the early boot stage to promote vegetive regrowth. This could be a cost-effective and simple way to provide additional grazing during the summer months.

Managing spring grass can be challenging. It is important to find that “sweet spot” for starting to graze, not too early and not too late! Hopefully one or more of the above tips will help you optimize your spring grass!

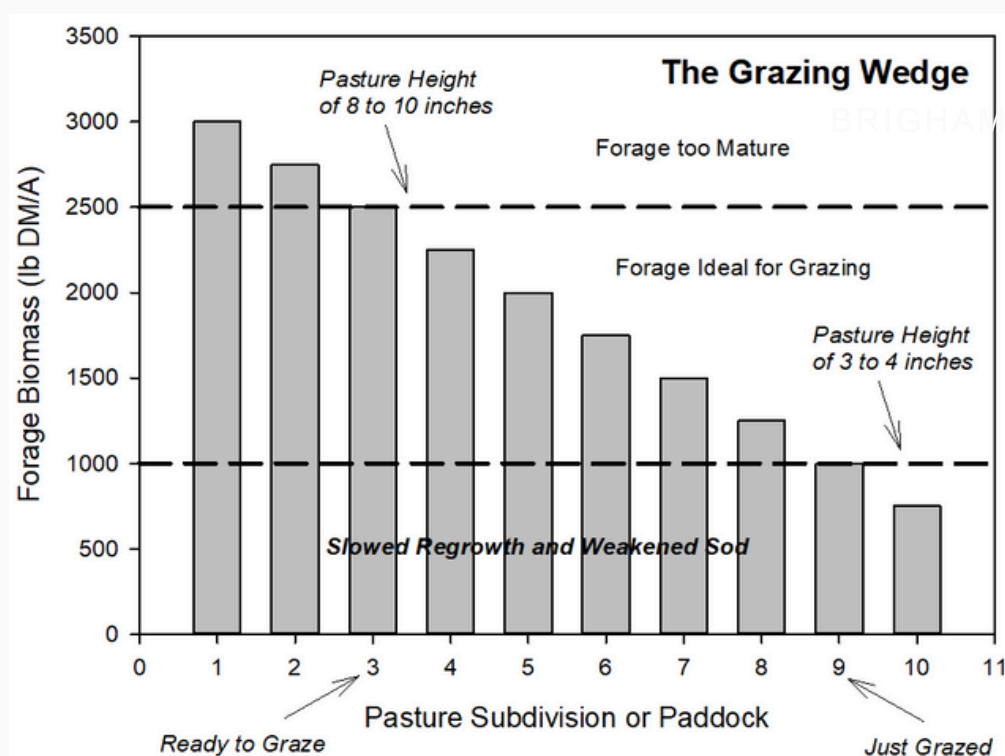


Figure 1. The “grazing wedge” simply refers to having pasture subdivisions or paddocks at varying stages of regrowth from just grazed to ready to graze.



The US Beekeeping Survey: a 'newish' effort to track colony health
 Agostina Giacobino, Nathalie Steinhauer*, Selina Bruckner & Geoff Williams
 Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, Auburn University, Auburn, AL
 *Department of Horticulture, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR

If you are reading this during the month of April, then the US Beekeeping Survey is Open, and inviting beekeeper participation. This is only the second year of our Survey, so if you aren't familiar with us we won't be too disappointed. You can think of us a follow-up to the Bee Informed Partnership's annual Colony Loss and Management Survey – many of our questions are aligned to that survey so that we can integrate our results with theirs. When BIP shut down in early 2024, we joined forces with national stakeholders like AHPA, ABF, and AIA to ensure that independent, long-standing colony loss and management monitoring efforts could continue. Not only are these data important to inform the industry, the general public, and decision-makers on the state of the beekeeping industry, but it also helps us identify important factors that are connected to honey bee health. For example, data from previous surveys have shown varroa and comb management matters (Steinhauer et al. 2021. *Sci. Total Environ.* 753: 141629). Given the massive losses that we are facing at the time of writing, plus the high losses that we documented among commercial beekeepers during 2023/24, contributing to our monitoring efforts are as important as ever so that we can properly communicate beekeeper experiences to decision makers and try to do our part to limit future losses. In addition to thanking the great collaboration we have with AHPA, ABF, and AIA, we want to give a shout out to the One Hive Foundation, Project Apis m, and the National Honey Board, for supporting our efforts to reignite this Survey last year. To see last year's survey results, and to participate during the month of April, go to <https://aub.ie/colonysurvey>



VOLUNTEER AT 4-H CAMP

Who can Volunteer?

Anyone ages 16-116 by the first day of camp (June 23rd, 2025).

Junior Counselors (16-17) get around 100 service hours!

Adults (18+) get a very rewarding week and an opportunity to be a good example in the lives of young people!

Contact Us

Email Julia for a camp counselor application!

5596234072

julia.reid@uky.edu

230 Duncannon Lane
Richmond, KY 40475

Madison County 4-H

SUMMER CAMP

Camp Applications will be available starting March 3rd!

Camp Fees:

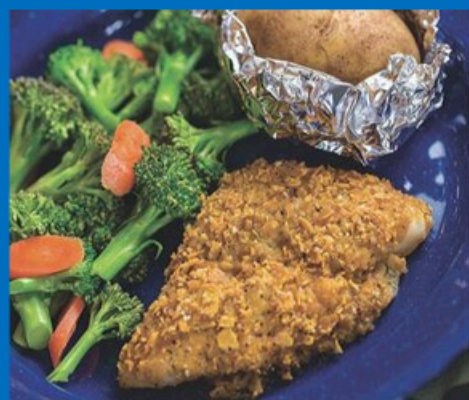
Early Bird (March 3rd-14th): \$250

Regular rate (March 15-May 16th): \$275

Late Fee (After May 16th): \$300

Applications will only be available in paper form this year. no online registrations! If you would like an application mailed to you, please email Casey your mailing address and camper(s) age(s). casey.faulkner@uky.edu

If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution to sponsor a child, 4-H gives out \$100 scholarships to families who need it! You can stop by and write a check, or mail one to Madison County 4-H, 230 Duncannon Lane Richmond, KY 40475! Check payable to Madison County 4-H



Oven-Fried Fish Fillets

Oven-Fried Fish Fillets

- 1 pound fish fillets
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1/4 cup shredded parmesan cheese
- 1/4 teaspoon dill weed
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 2 cups cornflake-type cereal, crushed

Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Grease a 13x9 baking dish. Cut fillets into serving pieces, if necessary. In a small bowl, combine lemon juice and vegetable oil. In a separate small bowl, mix Parmesan cheese, dill weed, salt, and pepper. Dip each fillet into lemon juice mixture. Lay in baking dish, sprinkle with cheese mixture, and coat with crushed cereal. Bake uncovered for 20 to 30 minutes or until fish flakes easily.

Yield: 4 servings

Adapted from "Fish and Game Cookbook" by Bonnie Scott, Copyright 2013, Bonnie Scott

Nutrition Facts

4 servings per container
Serving size 4 ounces (110g)

Amount per serving
Calories 200

% Daily Value*

Total Fat 6g	8%
Saturated Fat 1g	5%
Trans Fat 0g	
Cholesterol 80mg	27%
Sodium 330mg	14%
Total Carbohydrate 12g	4%
Dietary Fiber 0g	0%
Total Sugars 1g	
Includes 0g Added Sugars	0%
Protein 24g	
Vitamin D 1mcg	6%
Calcium 97mg	8%
Iron 6mg	35%
Potassium 440mg	10%

*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.



This institution is an equal opportunity provider. This material was funded by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - SNAP.



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MADISON COUNTY BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION

Madison County Beekeepers Association next meeting is planned for April 28, 6:00 pm, Madison County Extension Office. For info, call Kent, 859-623-3576 or Paul, 859-582-6172.



PLATE IT UP! KENTUCKY PROUD!

Whatever the season, Plate It Up with delicious recipes that put a new twist on your favorite Kentucky Proud foods. Visit <http://fcs-hes.ca.uky.edu/piukp-recipes> to find all the Plate It Up recipes using Kentucky Proud products.



PLANT AUCTION

Trees, Shrubs, Perennials & Annuals

A Portion of the Proceeds Fund 2 Forestry
Scholarships at UK.

Auction Open to the Public.

April 12, 2025 | Sale Starts at 10AM

Fayette County Extension Office
1140 Harry Sykes Way
Lexington, KY 40504