

Fayette County Agriculture & Natural Resources Newsletter

August 2022



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

Cooperative Extension Service
Fayette County Extension
1140 Harry Sykes Way
Lexington, KY 40504-1383
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Email: DL_CES_Fayette@email.uky.edu
<http://fayette.ca.uky.edu/>

Greetings,

The summer is flying by, and things have certainly greened up with all the rains we have had. The prolonged dry weather we encountered had me worried for our crops and pasture, but hopefully your farm has made a turn for the better. I have been pleasantly surprised at the strides the cattle market has made this summer, so hopefully you have capitalized and put a few extra dollars in your pocket.

Now is a good time to begin thinking about your fall pasture fertilization needs, and whether any reseeding or renovation is necessary. Plan now and be ready to accomplish these tasks when the weather allows. Don't overgraze during this time, allow fields to rest/stockpile as much as possible while grasses are still actively growing into fall. Continue clipping pastures aggressively to prevent mature weeds from producing seed.

Eastern Kentucky has endured significant damage from the storms and flooding that passed through a few weeks ago. I've included a flyer and voucher in this newsletter with an opportunity to help them out in the coming months.

As always, feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance. Please email me at beau.neal@uky.edu or call (859) 257-5582.

Beau Neal
Fayette County Extension Agent for
Agriculture & Natural Resources

Upcoming Events

|| **August 18-28, 2022 ~ Kentucky State Fair;** Kentucky Expo Center, Louisville, KY; For more information: <https://kystatefair.org>

|| **September 8, 2022 ~ Kentucky Hemp Field Day and Workshops;** University of Kentucky North Farm, Lexington, KY; 3:00-8:00pm ET; Registration: https://uky.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cl6TUljNHvKisoS

|| **September 8, 2022 ~ 4-H and FFA Youth Showcase Livestock and Country Ham Sale;** Locust Trace Agriscience Center; 6:30 pm; Please see the flyer later in this newsletter.

|| **September 13 & 14, 2022 ~ Fall 2022 Kentucky Grazing School;** Woodford County Extension Office, Versailles, KY; 7:30am-5:30pm; Cost: \$60.00; For more information: <http://forages.ca.uky.edu/event/fall-2022-kentucky-grazing-school>; To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fall-2022-grazing-school-tickets-377994741447>; Space is limited.

|| **October 3-6, 2022 ~ 12th Eastern Native Grasslands Symposium;** The Galt House, Louisville, KY; For more information, go online to <https://www.engsymposium.org/>

|| **October 22, 2022 ~ Beef Bash 2022;** University of Kentucky Research and Education Center, Princeton, KY; 8:30am CT; Please see the flyer in this newsletter for more information.

|| **October 27, 2022 ~ 2022 Kentucky Grazing Conference;** Clark County Extension Office, Winchester, KY; 7:30am-3:30pm, EDT; For more information and to register, go online to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ky-grazing-profitable-grazing-systems-from-the-soil-up-winchester-ky-tickets-395658895407>

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Disabilities
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Fayette County

4-H and FFA Youth Showcase

Livestock and Country Ham Sale

September 8th, 2022 ~ 6:30 pm

Locust Trace Agriscience Center

3591 Leestown Road, Lexington, KY

Please join us to support our local 4-H and FFA youth while they exhibit their livestock project animals and display their cured country hams! This is your opportunity to purchase locally-raised animals and country ham all while giving back to the youth of Fayette County. This will be an evening of community fellowship, food, and fun, so don't miss out!

Dinner will be provided!

For more information, please contact:

Beau Neal, Fayette County Ag Agent—Lucas Powell, Fayette County 4-H Agent
(859) 257-5582 / beau.neal@uky.edu or lucas.powell213@uky.edu

OR

Doug Ashcroft, Locust Trace Agriscience Center
(859) 595-6109



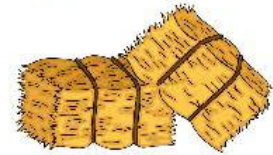
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Eastern Kentucky Farm Relief



As many of you know, some Eastern Kentucky counties have endured significant and irreparable damage to their homes and farms. Many of these folks are agricultural producers just like you. Some farmers have lost all of their hay supplies for the coming winter, as well as infrastructure such as fence to keep their livestock in. A time will be scheduled in the coming months to gather, load, and deliver all donated hay and fencing supplies to locations in Eastern Kentucky. I have spoken with fellow County Agriculture Extension Agents and these supplies will be much needed, appreciated, and most certainly put to use. If you are interested in helping farmers with rebuilding efforts and having feed for their livestock this winter, please fill out the voucher below and return to the Fayette County Extension Office. If you would like to call/email with your commitment you can do that as well with my information below. We thank you in advance for your willingness to give.

For more information contact Beau Neal
(859) 257-5582 or beau.neal@uky.edu



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Please check all the apply! Yes, I would be willing to donate the following items:

- Round bale hay x _____ bales (You will be asked to provide transport on the day of delivery)
- Square bale hay x _____ bales (You will be asked to provide transport on the day of delivery)
- Fencing supplies: Barbed wire, T-posts, insulators, etc.
- Bagged livestock feed: Horse or Cattle feed.

We will provide/arrange trucking for bagged feed, fencing supplies, and potentially square bales, we just ask that you deliver it to our drop off point when that time is scheduled. You will be notified by phone and/or email!

Name: _____ Phone number: _____ Email: _____

Please detach voucher and return to: Fayette County Extension Office, 1140 Harry Sykes Way, Lexington, KY 40504 or call (859 257-5582)/email (beau.neal@uky.edu) to notify us of your commitment. Thank you.

Brussels Sprouts with Ham

3 cups trimmed, halved, fresh Brussels sprouts (about 1½ pounds)
¼ cup chopped lean ham
vegetable cooking spray

1 tablespoon light butter
½ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon black pepper
1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice

Prepare Brussels sprouts by pulling off any limp outer leaves, and closely trimming the stem end—don't cut too much off or the Brussels sprout may fall apart. Rinse under cold water. Cut in half. (If using frozen Brussels sprouts, do NOT cut in half.)

Steam Brussels sprouts in ½ inch boiling water 5 minutes or until sprouts are tender when pierced with a knife. Drain.

Heat a large nonstick skillet over medium heat; add ham and ½ tablespoon light butter. Cook 3 minutes or until slightly brown, stirring occasionally.

Remove from pan; set aside.

Coat the same pan with cooking spray and place over medium-high heat.

Add Brussels sprouts; cook 3 minutes or until lightly browned.

Add ½ tablespoon light butter, salt, and pepper, stirring until butter melts.

Remove from heat, drizzle with lemon juice.

Add ham; toss to combine.

Yield: 6, ½ cup servings

Nutrition Analysis: 80 calories; 2 g total fat; 0 g saturated fat; 0 g trans fat; 5 mg cholesterol; 320 mg sodium; 11 g carbohydrate; 4 g fiber; 3 g sugars; 5 g protein; 8% recommended allowance for vitamin A; 120% recommended allowance for vitamin C.

Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers' market, or roadside stand.



For Plate It Up! recipes, visit:

<http://fcs-hes.ca.uky.edu/content/plate-it-kentucky-proud>



For Cook Wild Kentucky recipes, visit:

<https://www.planeatmove.com/recipes>



PUBLICATION SPOTLIGHT

Stockpiling for Fall and Winter Pasture (AGR-162)

Many cattle producers can take advantage of the late summer-fall growing conditions to obtain high-quality pasture for fall and early winter grazing. This practice is called stockpiling. Management decisions for optimum stockpiling include selecting grass species, timing, fertilization, grazing management or utilization, selecting classes of cattle, and designing grazing systems for efficient utilization. The most important thing though is to cut or graze the pastures you want to stockpile in early to mid-August and then let them rest until late this fall.

The publication is available on-line at
https://simpson.ca.uky.edu/files/stockpiling_for_fall_and_winter_pasture.pdf
or by contacting Beau Neal at beau.neal@uky.edu or (859) 257-5582.

I Have This Farm, Now What?

Source: Michael Forsythe, KFBM Area Extension Specialist, *Economic and Policy Update* (22):7, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Kentucky, July 29th, 2022.

What do I do with the farm I just bought?

Although this sounds like a question that should be asked before you buy the farm, there may be circumstances that cause you to acquire a farm before deciding what to do with it. You may decide you want to move your family out of the city to a rural area so you buy a house and a small farm. You might inherit a farm from a family member and you do not know anything about farming. No matter the circumstance, deciding what to do with the farm requires careful consideration. In this article, we will look at several decisions that need to be made when purchasing or inheriting a farm.

What are my goals with this farm? Do I want to rent the farm out to another local farmer? Do I want to farm it myself? If you choose to rent the farm out, you need to decide whom you want to rent your farm to and whether you want to cash rent it or share crop rent it. Once these decisions are made, you and the farmer will need to sit down and come up with a rental agreement (preferably written down) that both of you can agree upon. Deciding to farm the land yourself will lead to other important decisions.

One of these decisions would be what type of farming you want to do. Regardless of your answer to this question, you will need to make sure you have the right infrastructure for the type of farming you choose. If you choose to raise livestock, you will need to make sure there are suitable fences, barns, and handling facilities for the type of livestock you plan to raise. If you want to be a crop farmer, you will need to make sure there are good storage facilities or reasonable access to storage facilities for crops.

You will also need to study what type of markets are available for your product and the distance from the farm to those markets. If there are multiple markets, you will need to determine which one fits your needs the best. In some cases, there may be no local markets for your production. In this case, you may have to go into a different type of farming. If you are willing to take a risk, you may also choose to either start-up or help organize a local market for your

product. In livestock farming and specialty crop farming, there are more and more farmers trying to sell their product directly to the consumer on the farm or through a local marketing system.

Another important decision to make would be what type of equipment you will need for your farm. If you do not already have access to any equipment, this can quickly become a very expensive investment. You may need to look at buying the bare minimum equipment at first, while hiring someone else to complete other tasks for you, such as planting and spraying grain crops. Another option that may be beneficial would be leasing equipment instead of buying all of it.

There are many other critical decisions that need to be made before you decide to farm your newly purchased land. Finding the right lender and tax accountant for your operation is extremely important. There are all types of lending institutions, but you need to find one that is very familiar with agriculture because they may not understand your needs if they are not familiar with it. This is the same story with accountants. There are some very specific tax rules that farmers have to deal with that other businesses do not. Finding a tax accountant that is familiar with those rules can sometimes save some costly tax errors. Nobody likes paying taxes, but you could cause yourself to pay a lot higher tax bill if you choose an accountant who is not familiar with farming.

One final, often overlooked, decision you need to make is one involving record keeping. This is an area that many farmers fail in because they do not like "doing bookwork". Without proper records, you will not be able to determine what type of profit, if any, the farm is making. This may also cause problems when trying to get financing or tax preparation because it will take the lender and accountant a lot more time on your operation if you do not provide them with proper records.

Continued on next page

Continued: I Have This Farm, Now What?

There are many different accounting software products available for personal use. You just need to decide which one best fits your needs and then actually use it the way it is intended to be used.

Regardless of your situation, it is extremely important to examine these decisions among many others before you decide whether you want to farm. It is also very important to seek

advice from others that have more knowledge on a topic than you may have. You may also consider developing a written business plan. There are business advisory centers, like the Kentucky Center for Ag and Rural Development (KCARD) that can help you create a business plan. Your local extension agent is also a wealth of knowledge, can help you narrow down potential enterprise options and point you toward numerous resources through the UK Cooperative Extension Service.

Beef Bash 2022

Recovering and Rebuilding from a natural disaster

Date: Thursday October 20th, 2022

Time: Registration 8:30 AM CT
Program starts at 9 AM CT

Location: The beef unit at the University of Kentucky Research and Education Center.

348 University Dr
Princeton, KY 42445

*Signs will be posted to the beef unit

MAKE PLANS TO JOIN US!

Commercial exhibitors

Educational exhibits and demonstrations

University of Kentucky, College of Agriculture Food & Environment personnel and administrators

No cost to attend
Lunch available to purchase



2022 CAIP SIGNUP

Signups for 2022 CAIP will not be held until **February 1st through February 28th, 2023**. Approval notices will be mailed mid-March. Expenses may be reimbursed as soon as approvals are granted, and the deadline to complete projects will be December 1st, 2023. *A one-month retroactivity period will be offered for approved applicants, providing a full calendar year to complete projects.* See a summary of the changes below.

CAIP Signups: February 1, 2023

Applications Due: February 28, 2023

CAIP Deadline: December 1, 2023

Eligible Expenses: January 1, 2023 through December 1, 2023



I know this change may affect the planning process for many of you, but I hope the new deadline allows enough time for warm weather projects to be completed. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions regarding the timeline and eligibility. I can be reached by email or phone at 859-202-1811. Heather Silvanik, Director of Operations, Fayette County Conservation District

Hay Production Cost Increases in 2022 and Management Implications

Source: Greg Halich, Associate Extension Professor
Economic and Policy Update (22):7,

Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Kentucky, July 29th, 2022

Costs for hay production have skyrocketed in 2022. Fertilizer is driving the bulk of the overall increase, followed by fuel, and then general cost increases for other categories (what could be considered “general inflation”). While we can debate the exact causes of all these increases (i.e. “Policy Blunder” or “Putin’s War”), we have a serious situation that needs to be understood and dealt with.

See Table 1 for changes in fertilizer prices between 2021 and 2022. Assuming we are using 60 units of N, 30 units of P, and 100 units K per acre, our total fertilizer cost bill would have gone from \$67 to \$150/acre, or an increase of \$73/acre. This is about a \$24/ton increase at 3 tons/acre hay production.

Table 1: Fertilizer Price Increases 2022

Fertilizer	Spring 2021		Spring 2022	
	\$/ton	\$/unit	\$/ton	\$/unit
Urea (N)	\$370	\$0.40	\$920	\$1.00
DAP (P ₂ O ₅)	\$515	\$0.40	\$860	\$0.54
Potash (K ₂ O)	\$370	\$0.31	\$815	\$0.68

I will be the first to acknowledge that not all of this fertilizer cost increase will be fully realized as most farmers are cutting way back on fertilizer applications this year. That of course will mean lower yields on average, but the “true” cost will be somewhat less than the \$24/ton shown in Table 1. Using very rough calculations, I would put that figure somewhere between \$15-20/ton effective increase for fertilizer cost.

Note that it is actually possible that some farmers' fertilizer costs went down in 2022. This could have occurred if they are typically reliant on commercial fertilizer but applied very low levels in 2022. However, if fertilizer is actually a benefit to them in most years then either their yields will have gone down in 2022 or they are mining their P and K nutrient bank, which will have to be replenished in future years.

Fuel cost have also increase dramatically. During the spring of 2021 on-farm diesel was in the

\$2.10-2.25/gallon range. In 2022 it increased dramatically to \$4.70/gallon in May and peaked over \$5/gallon in late June and early July. Currently, in late July it has fallen back down below \$5/gallon. Assuming 5 gallons of diesel fuel per acre over two cuttings and moving the hay to storage, with an average price increase of \$2.75/gallon would result in an overall fuel cost increase of \$13.75 per acre, or roughly \$4.50/ton.

If we assume all other costs (supplies, repairs, equipment depreciation/interest, rent, labor, etc.) increased at roughly the general inflation rate of 9%, that would give us an additional cost increase of \$3.50/ton.

Thus our total cost increase for making hay between 2021 and 2022 would be in the range of \$23-28/ton. For a 5'x5' bale this would be roughly \$12-15 per bale. For a 4'x5' bale this would be roughly \$9-11 per bale. So far this year, I have not seen anything close to this level of increase in hay prices in Kentucky. However, unless 1) these costs come down substantially over the next 1-2 years, or 2) hay producers learn how to get good yields without commercial fertilizer, hay prices will have to increase.

Management Implications

Fertilizer cost increases are over twice all the other increases combined. While the record diesel fuel prices in 2022 are getting a lot of the headline news, the overall cost increase levels are nowhere near those of fertilizer prices on a per acre basis as was previously discussed. Moreover, there is only so much you can do to reduce your fuel costs if you are going to continue to make hay unless you are willing to trade in your 80 HP air-conditioned cab tractor for original horsepower that runs on solar energy (i.e. pasture, hay, and grain). *Aside note: one of the most efficient hay operations I have ever seen was primarily horse-powered, with both a square and round baler powered by a satellite*

Continued on next page

Continued: Hay Production Cost Increases in 2022 and Management Implications

engine. It was amazing how much hay they put up each year and I suspect embarrassed quite a few conventional hay producers in the area.

On the other hand, there are a number of practical options for hay producers and cattle farmers to reduce their dependence on commercial fertilizer. Nitrogen, in particular, can be replaced by learning how to manage legumes in mixed grass stands or even as pure specialty stands. A half-century ago, annual lespedeza was the forage of choice for dairy production in many parts of Kentucky. Dorris Bruce who now has beef cattle west of Lawrenceburg said they planted pure stands for their dairy in Muhlenberg County where he grew up, and that cut in the proper stage would produce more milk than any other forage they could grow. It is also my personal favorite forage for finishing beef cattle on. There are other biological and hay feeding techniques that can be used to reduce or eliminate the need for commercial fertilizer, P and K included. Check out a previous article, "Reducing Your Dependency on Commercial Fertilizers Strategies for Cattle Farm in 2022 and Beyond" (online at <https://agecon.ca.uky.edu/reducing-your-dependency-commercial-fertilizers-strategies-cattle-farms-2022-and-beyond>).

Another option to reduce dependency on commercial fertilizer is to position your farm so it is less reliant on hay. Cow-calf farms that have on average been feeding 130-150 days of hay

per year will need to either radically change management or cull their herd so that they can get down to the 60-90 days hay feeding range if they want to have a chance to be profitable. This level of hay feeding is the most profitable level given a realistic range of foreseeable hay price and calf price scenarios. For details of this analysis see the article in Hay and Forage Grower, "Find the Hay-Feeding Days Sweet Spot."

Unless fertilizer prices decrease quickly and dramatically over the next 1-2 years, we will be in a new era for hay production costs. Those farmers that don't quickly adapt to this change in cost structure are going to have a hard time surviving. Those farmers that have already learned, or are willing to learn, to use legumes and other biological techniques for the bulk of their fertility needs will gain a substantial competitive advantage. Collectively cattle farmers have been way too dependent on commercial fertilizer in the last few decades. Many have voluntarily moved away from commercial fertilizer and embraced these biological techniques in in the last few years. However, a majority are still trading away profits for purchased fertility and are addicted to the quick fix it gives its user. Sometimes a kick in the butt (i.e. the high \$ figure on the fertilizer bill) is needed to provide the incentive to make a change. The only uncertainties are 1) how hard will the kick need to be? And 2) how many times will they need to receive it? I'm betting most Kentucky farmers are fast learners when properly motivated.

Forage Timely Tips: August

Source: UK Forage News <https://kyforagenews.com/>

- Continue grazing available summer annuals (millets, sorghum/Sudangrass, crabgrass, etc.).
- Apply 40-60 lb N/acre to stimulate summer annual regrowth.
- Identify fescue pastures for stockpiling. Choose pastures that are well drained, have strong sod, and have not been overgrazed.
- Soil test pastures to determine fertility needs.
- Using UK variety trial results, select varieties to plant in the fall and order seed.
- Use a designated sacrifice lot to feed livestock hay and supplements as you wait for drought stressed pastures to reocset in and no forage is available for grazing.

Weekly Kentucky Cattle and Grain Summary

USDA Livestock, Poultry and Grain Market News

Frankfort, KY

Monday, August 15, 2022

For Week Ending:

Saturday, August 13, 2022

Receipts: 18,978

Last Week: 15,041

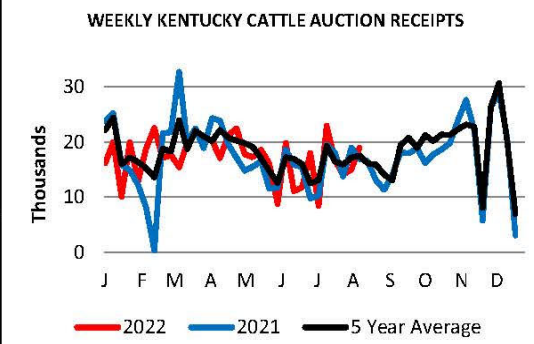
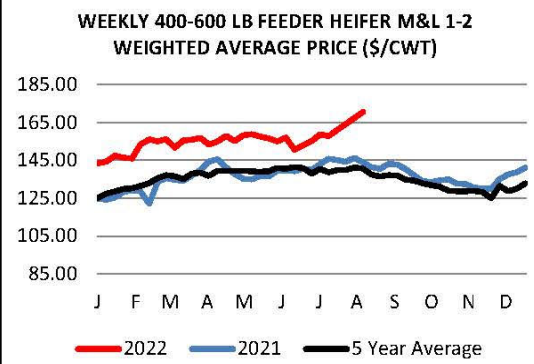
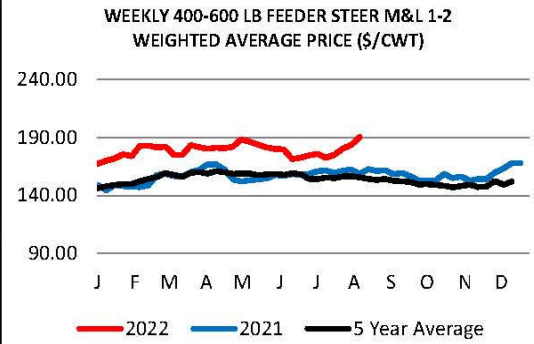
Last Year: 16,935

Compared to last week, feeder steers and heifers sold mostly 2.00 to 5.00 higher with instances sharply higher throughout the week. Yearlings were steady to 4.00 higher. Demand was good to very good for all steers and heifers with buyers showing best interest for long-weaned and pre-conditioned packages. Slaughter cows sold mostly 2.00 to 4.00 higher and slaughter bulls were steady to 2.00 higher with good to very good demand for slaughter classes.

[View Full Summary](#)

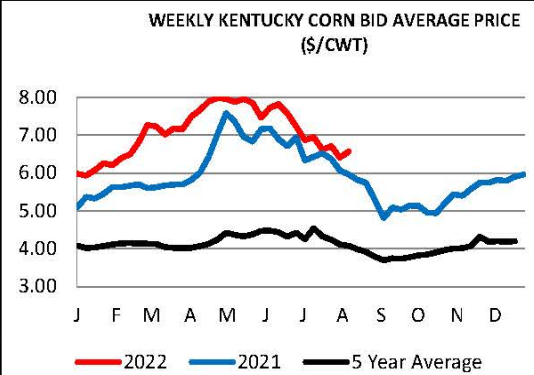
STATE AVERAGES

	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Prior Week</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
Steers (M&L 1-2)			
350-400 lbs	192.67	175.76	167.11
400-450 lbs	191.30	180.50	158.82
450-500 lbs	189.42	181.86	159.31
500-550 lbs	183.98	178.36	153.82
550-600 lbs	182.82	175.55	154.12
600-650 lbs	178.73	167.41	151.99
650-700 lbs	177.49	172.15	146.64
700-750 lbs	165.32	161.46	141.84
750-800 lbs	171.95	164.38	137.97
800-850 lbs	161.55	162.58	135.88
850-900 lbs	160.56	148.44	140.26
Heifers (M&L 1-2)			
300-350 lbs	167.86	165.91	149.80
350-400 lbs	169.07	168.09	147.47
400-450 lbs	171.86	162.29	145.35
450-500 lbs	172.23	162.02	141.07
500-550 lbs	165.81	157.97	139.45
550-600 lbs	163.59	156.97	140.67
600-650 lbs	162.37	148.39	132.37
650-700 lbs	160.54	147.05	133.30
700-750 lbs	143.66	140.95	123.17
750-800 lbs	150.13	136.75	124.27



WEEKLY COW SUMMARY

	<u>Average</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>
Slaughter Cows			
Breakers	66.00-99.50	80.00-107.00	78.00-89.00
Boners	68.00-103.00	79.00-114.00	58.00-89.50
Lean	60.00-82.50	69.50-91.00	49.00-72.50
Slaughter Bulls			
Yield Grade 1&2	94.00-129.00	109.00-135.00	72.00-112.50



August 11, 2022

Bowling Green, KY

SLAUGHTER GOATS: 200

Kids-Selection 1 59 lbs 280.00; 69 lbs 260.00; 91 lbs 267.50. **Selection 2:** 28 lbs 310.00; 39 lbs 230.00; 51-53 lbs 270.00; 65 lbs 260.00; 88 lbs 245.00.

SLAUGHTER SHEEP: 457

Woolled-Choice & Prime 1-2: 76-79 lbs 207.50-222.50; 88 lbs 215.00; 110-133 lbs 127.50-180.00. **Choice 2:** 103 lbs 142.50; 178 lbs 115.00. **Hair Breeds-Choice & Prime 1:** 83 lbs 190.00. **Choice & Prime 1-2** 52 lbs 240.00; 71-73 lbs 210.00-222.50; 87 lbs 207.50; 92 lbs 177.50; 102-105 lbs 170.00-220.00. [View Full Report](#)

[View Latest Grain Report](#)

GRAINS	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Prior Week</u>	<u>Last Year</u>
Corn	6.19-6.95	6.01-6.87	5.42-6.33
Soybeans	13.28-16.30	12.98-16.18	12.62-14.50
Red Winter Wheat	6.80-8.03	6.64-7.89	6.61-7.32

USDA-KY Livestock, Poultry & Grain Market News
 Frankfort, KY
 Levi Geyer, OIC 502-782-4139
 Email: Levi.Geyer@usda.gov
[USDA Livestock, Poultry, and Grain Market News](#)



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Beau Neal
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Office Hours: 8:00am - 4:30pm - Monday-Friday

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 KENTUCKY COUNTIES, COOPERATING

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