

Ag and Natural Resources News

August 2025

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars now!

► **CAIP educational session**

August 11th, 3PM

► **CAIP Reports & Paperwork due**

August 29th

Details below

► **Boone County Extension Office**

Closed

September 1st

IMPORTANT

Boone County CAIP Producer Reports and Paperwork Due by August 29th!

Attention Boone County agricultural producers: The deadline for submitting your County Agricultural Investment Program (CAIP) producer reports and required documents **must be turned in by August 29th by 4:30PM at the Boone County Extension Office.**

- **Complete All Required Forms:** Make sure you have filled out all necessary forms accurately. Double-check for any missing information or signatures.
- **Gather Supporting Documents:** Include all required supporting documents, such as receipts, canceled checks, or invoices.

If you are unsure of what all needs to be turned in, come by the office before the deadline and let me review your paperwork.

If you have not completed your educational requirement, we will have one last opportunity on August 11th at 3PM at the Boone County Extension Office.

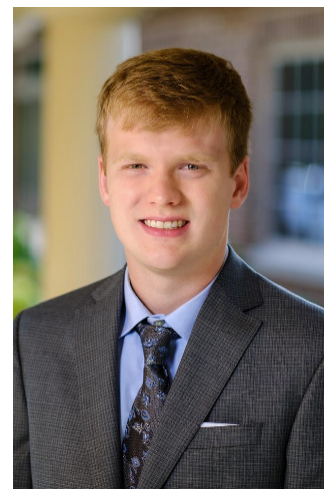
Agent Message:

Hello, my name is Rusty Wolf, and I am proud to serve as Boone County's new Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent.

I graduated from the University of Kentucky in 2022 with a Bachelor of Science in Animal Science and a minor in Plant and Soil Sciences. I grew up on a small farm in Campbell County where my family raises Purebred Hereford cattle and grows corn and soybeans. During college, I spent four years working as a student worker on UK's beef research unit, which maintains a 300-head commercial herd. I also completed two Cooperative Extension internships: one in Pendleton County and another right here in Boone County under former Agriculture Agent Michelle Simon.

For the past two years, I've had the pleasure of serving as a 4-H Youth Development Agent in Boone County. I'm excited to continue working in this great community in a new capacity and look forward to supporting and meeting local producers, landowners, and residents through Extension programming.

Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or to share ideas for future agriculture programs, I'd love to hear from you!



New World Screwworm : A Recent Threat to U.S. Farm Animals

Recent news headlines have brought attention to the northward movement of a foreign animal disease towards the United States from Mexico: New World Screwworm (NWS). This parasite has been eradicated from the United States since 1966 with the most recent outbreak occurring in Florida Key deer in 2016. All living, warm-blooded animals, including birds and humans, can be infested with NWS.

What makes this fly and larvae different?

While our normal, US-borne flies lay eggs that can cause wounds to be infested with maggots (called myiasis), the flies that cause NWS are much more aggressive and the maggot (NWS) feeds on living flesh.

What causes infestation?

The female NWS fly lays eggs near or on a wound of an animal. The eggs hatch and the larvae (maggots) burrow into living flesh, enlarging the wound, attracting more flies and debilitating the animal. NWS flies seek out wounds from fighting injuries, tick bites, newborn navels and even human-made wounds from castration, ear tagging and dehorning procedures. After a week of feeding in the wound, the larvae drop to the ground and burrow where the adult NWS fly emerges.

Adult New World screwworm flies resemble the common blowfly but have multiple distinguishing features.



What strategies are there for control?

Three main tactics are used for controlling NWS. The first two are dependent on veterinarians and animal caretakers and include visual examination of wounds with subsequent treatment and quarantine, as well as movement controls from impacted areas. The third tool, called sterile fly release, takes advantage of the fact that a female fly mates only once in her lifetime. Male NWS larvae can be raised in specialized laboratories, sterilized and released into the wild to mate with females. The female NWS fly's eggs will not hatch after mating with a sterile male NWS fly.

What is the urgency?

Recent northward detections of NWS in Mexico prompted United States Department of Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins to temporarily stop importation of cattle, horses and bison from Mexico at U.S. land ports. A detection in the United States could cost millions of dollars in livestock losses, trade restrictions and control efforts. Livestock, pets, wildlife and even humans could suffer and die from screwworm infestation. Look for animals that are depressed, not eating and off to themselves with enlarging, foul-smelling wounds. You may notice eggs laid near the wound and possibly moving maggots. NWS flies and maggots look like the common blowfly and maggot. If you suspect a case of NWS, contact a USDA veterinarian (502-395-2368) or Kentucky state veterinarian (502-573-0282) for help identifying it. We can work together to protect the United States from the re-introduction of this terrible disease.



New World screwworm flies, eggs and larvae around and deep within a wound.

Find more information at: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/cattle/ticks/screwworm>

Ten or more farmed or forested acres in Kentucky?

Summer is a good time to update your agriculture water quality plan

The Agriculture Water Quality Act was passed by the Kentucky Legislature in 1994, mandating that landowners with 10 or more acres in agricultural production must develop a water quality plan. Ten or more acres of crops, livestock or trees that will be harvested qualify for a plan and implementation by law. This plan documents the best management practices you're using to protect water resources. These best management practices could include planned grazing systems, rotational grazing for livestock, filter or buffer strips around crop fields, animal waste manure storage structures and nutrient management plans. It should also include plans to limit livestock access to streams. Additionally, the document should include information on the proper handling of herbicides and pesticides, as well as the maintenance of septic systems.

To implement a water quality plan, first look at the activities in your operation. You can use a web-based planning tool (<https://soilandwater.ca.uky.edu/awq>) to answer questions about the operation. By answering these questions, you can identify the appropriate best management practices needed. Then, you document that these practices are being used and properly maintained.

In many cases, proper practices are already in place, and creating an agriculture water quality plan provides a document stating that you are following proper procedures to protect the water quality on your farm.



However, keep in mind that an agriculture water quality plan is not a voluntary document; it is a mandatory document required by the Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Act. Periodically review and update your plans to reflect changes in farming and forestry practices or land ownership. Additionally, a water quality plan is required by the local Soil and Water Conservation District if you plan to apply for state cost-share programs.

By implementing an agriculture water quality plan, you help protect both surface and groundwater from agricultural contaminants. Keeping the state's water resources clean protects human and animal health and reduces the cost of treating drinking water.

For more information on the Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Act, please contact the Boone County Cooperative Extension Service.

Related resources:

Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Act and Planning - <https://soilandwater.ca.uky.edu/awq>

Source: Amanda Gumbert, UK water quality extension specialist

Timely Tips

Dr. Les Anderson, Beef Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

Spring-Calving Cow Herd

- Consider removing bulls from the cow herd by the end of the month and keep them away from the cows. A short calving season can concentrate labor during the calving season; group calves by age so that it is easier to find a convenient time to vaccinate, castrate, dehorn, etc.; and provide a more uniform group of calves at market time.
- Mid-July is a good time to deworm cattle, use a product that is effective against inhibited ostertagia. Re-implant calves which were implanted at birth if the type of implant and amount of time indicate. Calves which haven't been vaccinated for blackleg should be. Spraying or using a pour-on for flies while cattle are gathered can supplement other fly control methods. Remember to work cattle early in the morning when it is cool and handle them gently to minimize stress.
- Watch for pinkeye and treat if necessary. Minimize problems by clipping pastures, controlling face flies and providing shade. Monitor the bulls' activity and physical condition as the breeding season winds down.
- Fescue pastures tend to go dormant in July and August, so look for alternatives like warm season grasses during this period of time. Try to keep the young calves gaining weight. Go to pastures which have been cut for hay to have higher quality re-growth when it is available.
- Consider cutting warm season grass pastures for hay if reserves have not been restored yet.
- Heat stress can lead to low conception rates, low libido in bulls, and embryonic loss (abortion) between days 6 and 45 of pregnancy. Keep a close eye on your herd. Plan to diagnose your herd for pregnancy early this fall to identify open cows for future planning.

Fall-Calving Cow Herd

- De-worm calves in mid-July with a product that is effective against inhibited ostertagia.
- Fall-calving cows should be dry and pregnant now. Their nutrient needs are minimal, and they can be maintained on poor pasture to avoid over fattening. Keep a good free-choice mineral mix available at all times. You can use a lower phosphorus mineral supplement now, if you want to save a little money. These cows are regaining body condition after a long winter-feeding period.
- Get ready for fall calving and plan to have good pasture available at calving and through the breeding season.

Stockers

- Sell heavier grazing cattle before rate of gain decreases or they get into a heavyweight category. This will also relieve grazing pressure as pasture growth diminishes. They can be replaced with lightweight calves after pastures recover.
- Lighter cattle which are kept on pasture need to be rotated to grass-legume or warm-season grass pastures to maintain a desirable level of performance. Re-implant these calves and deworm with a product that is effective against inhibited ostertagia.

General

- Check pastures for downed wild cherry trees after storms (wilted wild cherry leaves are toxic to cattle).
- Be sure that clean water is always available, especially in hot weather. Make routine checks of the water supply. Cattle need 13 to 20 gallons of clean water in hot weather. Cattle should have access to shade.
- Maintain a weed control program in permanent pastures and continue to "spot-spray" thistle, honey locust, etc.
- Have forage analyses conducted on spring-cut hay and have large, round bales covered. Begin planning the winter feeding program now. Most of the hay was cut late due to a wet spring.
- Start soil testing pastures to determine fertilization needs for this fall.
- Be aware of the heat when planning your cattle handling. Work cattle early in the morning to avoid excessive heat stress.
- Avoid grazing pastures containing endophyte-infected fescue if possible. The alkaloids (chemicals) produced by the fungus exacerbates heat stress in livestock and can lead to numerous negative outcomes including decreased growth rate and decreased conception rate.

Hay Testing Even More Important in 2025

Dr. Chris Teutsch, UK Research and Education Center at Princeton

In many parts of Kentucky first cutting hay was delayed. Although yields were good, forage quality is another story. As the grass plant reaches maturity (gets mature seed) yield goes up, but quality decreases (Figure 1). This year we were on the right side of this figure, good yield but lower quality. We have already got our hay testing results back from the lab for our first cutting and that is exactly what they show (Table 1).

I wish we could have been more timely in our hay harvest this spring but weather conditions were just not conducive to dry hay harvest. In fact, weather records indicate that we are seeing a trend toward fewer baling days in May (baling day = 3 curing days + 1 harvest day). It is just getting tougher to be timely with our first cutting harvested as dry hay. So, the question becomes what do we do? The list of practical solutions is short; in fact, there is really one viable alternative and that is baleage. High quality baleage can be made with a curing window as short as 2 days (one day to mow and wilt and a second day to bale and wrap). This provides more opportunities to harvest at the correct stage of maturity (late boot to early head).

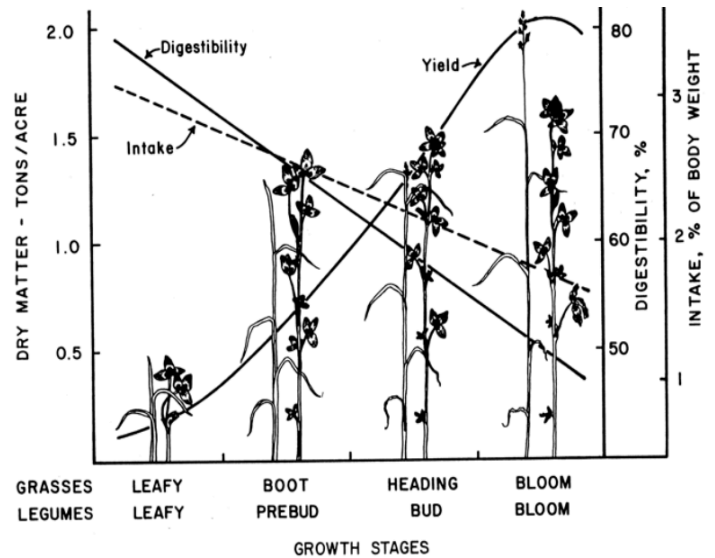


Figure 1. As plant maturity increases, yield increases and forage quality (digestibility and crude protein) decreases. The single most important factor impacting forage quality is stage of maturity at harvest.

| Field | CP† | ADF | NDF | TDN | Meet CP Requirements | | Meet TDN Requirements | |
|-------|------|------|------|------|----------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|
| | % | % | % | % | Dry | Lactating | Dry | Lactating |
| 1 | 8.9 | 40.1 | 59.1 | 55.5 | yes | no | yes | no |
| 2 | 9.9 | 39.4 | 60.0 | 56.2 | yes | no | yes | no |
| 3 | 8.2 | 41.6 | 67.2 | 53.8 | yes | no | yes | no |
| 4 | 10.6 | 41.0 | 64.5 | 54.5 | yes | yes | yes | no |
| 5 | 8.3 | 40.7 | 65.6 | 54.8 | yes | no | yes | no |
| Avg | 9.2 | 40.6 | 63.3 | 55.0 | yes | no | yes | no |

Table 1. Forage quality of 2025 first harvest hay at UK Research and Education Center in Princeton. †CP, crude protein, ADF, acid detergent fiber, NDF, neutral detergent fiber, TDN, total digestible nutrients.

Hay Testing Even More Important in Wet Years

In years like this one, hay testing becomes even more important. Since most of Kentucky's first cutting hay was put up at an advanced stage of maturity, testing is going to be a critical part of making sure that we meet the nutrient requirements of our cows this winter. The single most important factor impacting rebreeding in cow herds is body condition at calving. To design an effective supplementation program for our lower quality hay we must know what the quality is. If you have never tested your hay, this is the year to start!

Forage Management Tips

- Test first cutting hay and use the results to develop a supplementation strategy for this winter.
- Graze summer annuals pastures and fertilize with 40-60 lb N/A if regrowth is desired.
- Identify pastures to stockpile for winter grazing. Pastures should be well drained and have a strong sod. Limit summer grazing so that they are ready to grow as conditions cool and rain comes in late summer.
- Do NOT mow hayfields or graze pastures closer than 4-5 inches.
- Soil test pastures to determine nutrient needs.
- Use UKY variety testing results to select varieties that will be planted in the fall.
- If drought occurs, confine animals to one pasture and feed hay.

Should I get my Harvested Deer Tested for CWD?

Dr. Matthew T. Springer, Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Kentucky

When to test:

- If you harvested the deer within the CWD surveillance zone (CWD SZ), Ballard, Breckenridge, Calloway, Carlisle, Fulton, Hardin, Hickman, Graves, Marshall, McCracken, and Meade counties, it is advised you get your deer tested.
- Mandatory during weekends of firearm seasons (Nov. 9-11, 16-17, and 23-24) for the western Kentucky SZ (Ballard, Calloway, Carlisle, Fulton, Hickman, Marshall, and McCracken)
- Testing in counties surrounding the CWD SZ is also a good idea and will aid in disease detection by KDFWR



How to get it tested?

- Arrive at a mandatory check station during the weekend of the firearm seasons and a biologist will collect the sample (Table 1)
- Outside of that time or outside of the CWD SZ, drop off the head at a KDFWR testing location found throughout the state
- Testing locations inside or outside of CWD SZ can be found at Figure 1 or at <https://fw.ky.gov/Wildlife/Pages/Chronic-Wasting-Disease.aspx>
- It is free to get your deer tested and the results are obtained within about 10 weeks.

| CWD Check Station Locations | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--------------|
| COUNTY | LOCATION NAME/ADDRESS | CITY |
| Ballard | Ballard Co. Extension Office, 110 Broadway | LaCenter |
| Calloway | First Choice Firearms, 1205 Stadium View Dr. | Murray |
| Carlisle | Carlisle Co. Extension Office, 65 John Roberts Dr. | Bardwell |
| Fulton | Fulton Co. Extension Office, 2114 7th St. | Hickman |
| Graves | Burnett's Deer Processing, 1580 Penny Corner Rd. | Melber |
| Graves | Patriot Ag LLC, 400 Crittendon Ln. | Mayfield |
| Graves | Southern Reds BBQ, 5085 KY 94 West | Water Valley |
| Graves | Dowdy's Taxidermy, 1461 Baltimore Church Rd. | Mayfield |
| Hickman | Hickman Co. Extension Office, 329 James H. Phillips Dr. | Clinton |
| Marshall | Clarks River NWR, 91 U.S. 641 N | Benton |
| McCracken | James Marine, 4540 Clarks River Rd. | Paducah |
| McCracken | McCracken Co. Extension Office, 2025 Holt Rd. | Paducah |
| McCracken | West Kentucky WMA, 10535 Ogden Landing Rd. | Kevil |

Table 1. CWD Check Station Locations

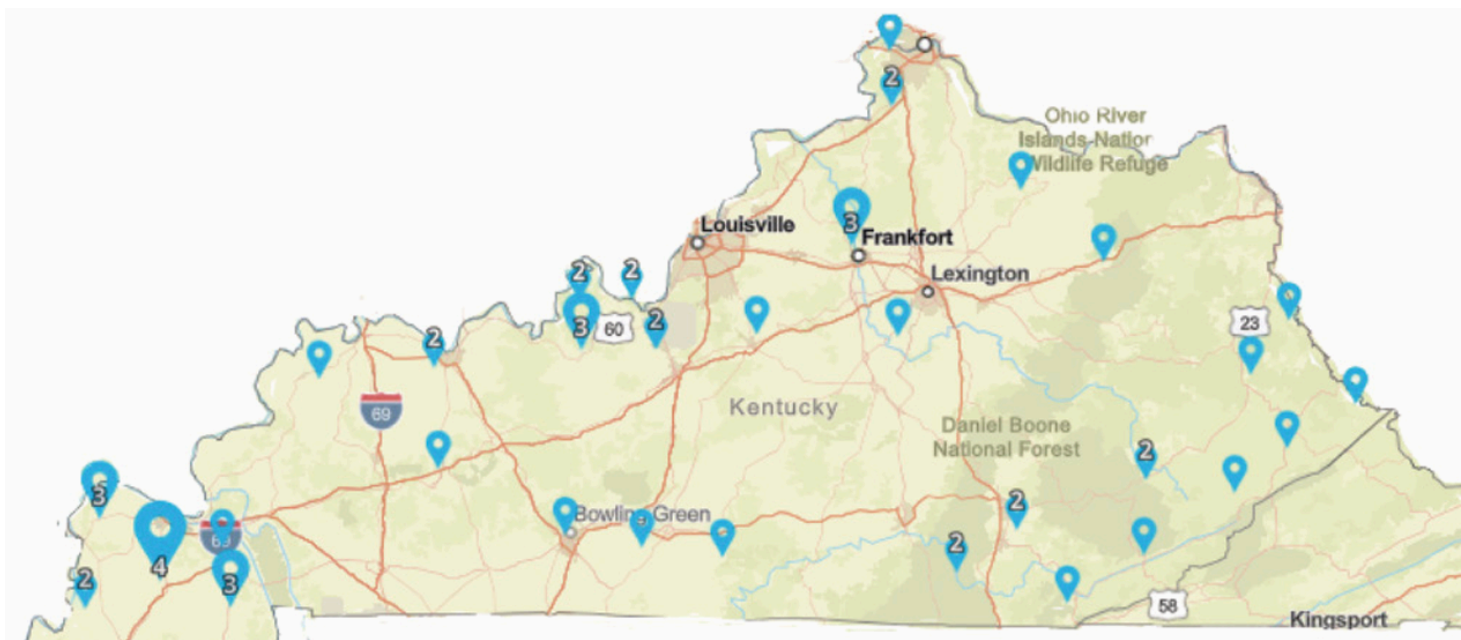


Figure 1. Drop off sites in CWD zone in Kentucky

Follow all procedures to successfully have your deer tested found here:

- A new mail-in kit program was launched in 2024 to help make getting your deer tested a bit more convenient. Hunters will need to pick up a kit prior to harvest from one of the pickup locations found in the table. Instructions on how to use the kit are included. There are a limited supply this year as the agency tests out the program. It is important to note that the kits DO NOT meet the mandatory check requirements for the western Kentucky CWD zone. More information about the kits can be found at: [https://fw.ky.gov/ Wildlife/Pages/mail-in-kit.aspx](https://fw.ky.gov/Wildlife/Pages/mail-in-kit.aspx)

What to do if I receive a positive test result?

- The CDC does not recommend any meat from CWD positive animals to be consumed by humans at this time.
- Do not donate the meat to the food bank.
- Do not bury it or discard it in the environment.
- Place in trash bags and dispose of the bags so that it can be buried at the landfill.

CWD Sample Mail-in Kit Pick-Up Locations

| Region | County | Pick-up Location | Address | Phone # |
|-----------|----------|---------------------------------|--|----------------|
| Bluegrass | Franklin | KDFWR Disability License Office | 1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601 | {800} 858-1549 |
| | Grant | Curtis Gates Lloyd WMA | 230 Gardnersville Rd, Crittenden, KY 41030 | {859} 472-9881 |
| | Madison | Madison County Extension Office | 230 Duncannon Ln, Richmond, KY 40475 | {859} 623-4072 |
| | Spencer | Taylorsville Lake WMA | 1584 Overlook Rd, Taylorsville, KY 40071 | {502} 330-7309 |

CWD Sample Drop-Off Site:

- The Boone County Extension (6028 Camp Ernst Rd. Burlington, KY 41005) is a drop off location in Northern Kentucky.

Catch of the Day Burger

Servings: 6 Serving Size: 1/6 of pie

Ingredients:

- 1 quart boiling water
- 1 ½ pounds boneless white fish
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 1/3 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley
- 1 clove finely chopped garlic or ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- ½ cup dry panko breadcrumbs
- ¼ cup vegetable oil



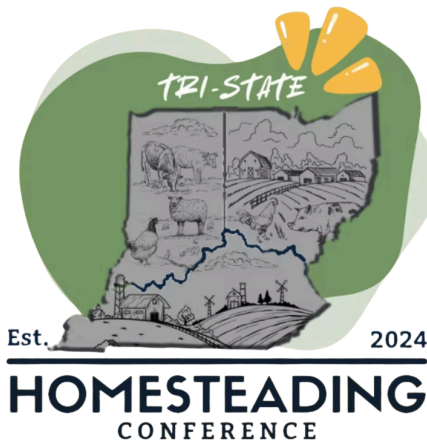
Directions:

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 sodium.

Nutrition Facts: 390 calories; 18g total fat; 3.5g saturated fat; 2.5g trans fat; 65mg cholesterol; 580mg sodium; 32g total carbohydrate; 1g dietary fiber; 4g sugars; 0g added sugars; 23g protein; 0% Daily Value of vitamin D; 2% Daily Value of calcium; 30% Daily Value of iron; 8% Daily Value of potassium.

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



TRISTATE HOMESTEADING CONFERENCE

Friday and Saturday, November 7 - 8

Boone County Extension Enrichment Center, Lower Level

Explore a diverse range of homesteading topics. With a focus on hands-on learning and real-world applications, this event is designed to equip you with the tools and knowledge to thrive in your homesteading journey. More details to come, visit:

www.tristatehomesteadersconference.com



Cooperative
Extension Service

Rusty Wolf
Boone County Extension Agent
for Agriculture and Natural Resources
rusty.wolf@uky.edu

**Agriculture and
Natural Resources**

Lacey Kessell
Boone County Extension Agent
for Natural Resource and
Environmental Education
lacey.laudick@uky.edu