

# Newsletter

AGRICULTURE &amp; NATURAL RESOURCES

*Proudly Serving Butler County!!!*

## **2025 Fruit and Vegetable Conference - January 6-7th**

The 2025 Fruit and Vegetable Conference is January 6 -7, 2025. This year, the state's premier fruit, vegetable, and cut flower educational opportunity is at the Marriott Griffin Gate in Lexington, KY. Attendees can hear from industry experts on many different aspects of production and marketing. The KY Horticulture Council puts on this program. Registration and Lodging information is available on their website.

## **KY Cattleman's Convention - January 15-17th**

The 2025 KCA Convention is in Owensboro, KY January 15-17, 2025. The meeting is at the Owensboro convention center. Lodging is in the hotels near the conference center. Registration and Lodging information are available at the KY Cattleman's website.

## **KY Commodity Conference in Bowling Green - January 16th**

Thursday, January 16, 2025 marks the date for the 31st Kentucky Commodity Conference, to be held at the Sloan Convention Center in Bowling Green. This annual meeting of Kentucky Soybean Association, Kentucky Corn Growers Association and the Kentucky Small Grain Growers Association will provide producers and agriculture industry professionals the opportunity to discover how these organizations have advanced their interests in the past year.



Luncheon at KY Commodity Conference

There is no fee for farmers to attend the conference, thanks to the generosity of industry sponsors. Registration is required to guarantee entry to the luncheon and the awards celebration. To register visit the KY Commodity Conference Web Page.

102 Parkway Lane | Morgantown, KY 42261 | P: 270-526-3767 | F: 270-526-2357 | [butler.ca.uky.edu](http://butler.ca.uky.edu)

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Agriculture and Natural Resources  
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Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.

## **State Apiarist Office Hours**

Starting in January, Dr. Amanda Skidmore – the Kentucky Department of Agriculture State Apiarist, will be hosting a monthly zoom meeting open to anyone that would like to participate. *This will be a way for her to communicate important beekeeping related information and an opportunity for you to ask her questions!* The first meeting will be Thursday, January 23, 2025 from 12pm EST/11am CT.

If you would like to participate, please fill out the google form linked here and she will add you to her email list where you will be able to sign up for the meetings!

Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/hwpyX1giH1Wd2Gmv9>



## **Butler County Farm Bureau National Farm Machinery Show Trip**

The Butler County Farm Bureau board of directors invites you to travel to Louisville, KY for a day at the National Farm Machinery Show. A charter bus will leave the Farm Bureau office at 7:00 a.m. on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The bus will drop you off at the front door of the show and pick you up in the same place. The bus will return to Morgantown about dark. Tickets for the tour are \$25 and can be purchased at the Farm Bureau Office. Breakfast sandwiches, drinks, and snacks will be available on the bus ride. There is no better way to have a day at the machinery show.



Butler County Farmers at NFMS

## **Pesticide Applicator Training Offered in Butler County 2025**



Farmers making pesticide applications on their farm should be private pesticide applicators.

The 2025 Private Pesticide Applicator Training dates are listed below. Farmers who apply pesticides on their own farm should be private pesticide applicators and are required to keep records of the applications. The training covers how to use pesticide products safely, information about the worker protection standard, and some pest management issues common in Butler County. Participation in these trainings are free and the class will last 3 hours.

### **Pesticide Applicator Training Dates 2025**

**February 20th - 6:00 p.m.**

**February 21st - 9:00 a.m.**

**March 13th - 6:00 p.m.**

The 2025 Private Pesticide Applicator Trainings will be offered at the Butler County Extension Service 102 Parkway Lane Morgantown, KY 42261.

For additional information, contact Greg at the Butler County Extension Service Office by calling (270) 526-3767.

## **2025 Butler County Leadership Development Training**

The 2025 Butler County Extension Leadership Development Workshop is Tuesday, March 18th at the Butler County Extension Office from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. We will have a session on Parliamentary Procedure and a session on the importance of understanding generational differences when leading an organization.



*Betty Farris discusses business at a rural development meeting*

The Parliamentary Procedure training is always popular. We will practice handling motions, and discuss how majority rules, but the rights of the minority must be respected.

Any group must have strong leaders to be effective. Leaders are not born, they are developed.

There is no fee for the program and I sincerely hope you can participate. Leaders from across our community are being invited. Registration is not required, but if you think you will attend please let the Extension Office know at 526-3767 or e-mail me directly at [gdrake@uky.edu](mailto:gdrake@uky.edu).

## **Stockman's Association Annual Meeting - March 27, 2025**

The annual meeting of the Butler County Stockman's Association will be Thursday, March 27th at the Butler County Extension Service at 6:00 p.m.

There will be a sponsored meal, an educational presentation, and a short business meeting. The meal will be prepared by Butler County 4-H and will feature locally sourced meat. We will also announce the winners of this year's forage contest.

The Stockman's Association is Butler County's chapter of the Kentucky Cattleman's Association, but was chartered to support all livestock. It is a volunteer led organization that's mission is to support the livestock industry in Butler County.



Anyone with livestock in Butler County should be a member of the Stockman's Association. Membership dues are \$5 per year per family. Everyone is invited to attend this meeting.



## **Alfalfa and Stored Forage Conference - February 25**

The 2025 Alfalfa and Stored Forage Conference will be held February 25th from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Fayette County Extension Office, 1140 Harry Sykes Way, Lexington, KY.

The conference will provide important updates on alfalfa production and feature how to produce grass hay for premium markets. The following presentations will be part of the conference:

- Everything I Ever Needed to Know about Armyworms
- Armyworm Control Methods: What to Spray and When
- What's New in Alfalfa Varieties
- What do Horse Owners Want and Why
- What We Can Learn from the Results of the KY Hay Contests
- Emerging Markets for Unique Forage Species



*Field of cut hay.*

The day will close with four top KY hay producers discussing Orchardgrass, Timothy, Teff, and Fescue/mixed hay production. These will be very practical discussions with explaining successful methods for establishment, fertilizing, harvesting and marketing. The floor will then be open to questions.

The cost is \$45 (students are only \$15). Go to the UK Forage Website under events to register or mail a check with your name to Krista Lea, N222 Agriculture North, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546-0091.



**For more information on any part of this newsletter, please feel free to contact the Butler County Extension Service at (270) 526-3767 or email [gdrake@uky.edu](mailto:gdrake@uky.edu).**

Greg Drake II,  
County Extension Agent  
for Agriculture and Natural Resources



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**Martin-Gatton**  
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Food and Environment  
University of Kentucky

# EXTENSION SERIES

## *Homesteading Basics*

January 30, February 25, and February 27  
Butler County Extension Service • 3-5 p.m.

## RSVP NOW (270) 526-3767



LIMITED  
SPOTS  
AVAILABLE

- JANUARY 30 - BEGINNING BEEKEEPING (GREG DRAKE II)
- FEBRUARY 25 - SOUR DOUGH BREAD (LEAH CARDWELL)
- FEBRUARY 27 - GROWING MUSHROOMS (DR. ELLEN CROCKER)

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# Yummy Sweet Potato Casserole

6 medium sweet potatoes	¾ cup low-fat vanilla Greek yogurt	¾ cup brown sugar	3 tablespoons melted butter	¾ teaspoon salt
¼ cup maple syrup	¼ teaspoon vanilla extract	½ cup ground rolled oats	¼ teaspoon cinnamon	2 eggs
2 tablespoons brown sugar	1 tablespoon cinnamon	1 tablespoon maple syrup	½ cup chopped pecans	

**Preheat** oven to 325 degrees F. **Pee** sweet potatoes and **cut** into 1-inch cubes. **Place** sweet potato cubes in a medium saucepan and **cover** with water. **Cook** over medium-high heat until tender. **Drain** and **mash** in a large bowl, **mix** together mashed potatoes, maple syrup, brown sugar, eggs, salt, yogurt, vanilla and cinnamon. **Blend** until smooth. **Pour** into a 13-by-9-inch baking dish. **Topping:** In a medium bowl, **mix** the brown sugar and oats.

**Nutritional Analysis:** 190 calories, 7 g fat, 2.5 g saturated fat, 10 mg cholesterol, 190 mg sodium, 31 g carbohydrate, 20 g sugars, 4 g protein.

**Yield:** 12, ½ cup servings  
browned.  
30 minutes, or until topping is lightly  
over sweet potato mixture. **Bake**

is coarse. **Stir** in pecans. **Sprinkle** and cinnamon, **blend** until mixture  
**Add** in syrup, melted butter, salt

