

# CASEY COUNTY AG NEWS

## JANUARY 2024



## AGENT NOTES

I hope everyone had a very merry Christmas with your families and are excited for another year to begin. We have lots of great programs in store for the winter. Many of them qualify for CAIP educational credit for those of you still needing to get that completed.

Make sure to read through the newsletter and check them out. Additionally, we have calendars in stock in the office while supplies last. As always feel free to call the office if you have any questions.

*Kelsey Marcum*

Kelsey Marcum  
Casey County Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent

## CASEY COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE



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[casey.ca.uky.edu](http://casey.ca.uky.edu)



[facebook.com/caseyanr](https://facebook.com/caseyanr)



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

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Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## **Kentucky Fruit & Vegetable Conference**

January 3rd-4th  
Bowling Green, KY



## **Kentucky Cattlemen's Convention**

January 11th-12th  
Lexington, KY



## **Private Pesticide Applicator Training**

January 16th at 9:00 am  
January 30th at 5:00pm  
Casey County Extension Office  
Educational Building  
Call to register, 606-787-7384



## **Casey Co. Extension District Board Meeting**

January 17th at 12:30pm  
Casey County Extension Office



## **Growers Meeting**

January 17th at 9:00am  
Lincoln County Produce Auction  
2896 KY-39, Crab Orchard, KY 40419  
This meeting will feature university speakers covering  
topics on fruits, vegetables, and diseases.  
Lunch will be provided.  
Call to register, 606-787-7384



## **Lake Cumberland Area Grain Meeting**

Dr. Chad Lee, UK Extension Grain Crops Specialist  
January 25th at 2:00pm  
Casey County Extension Office  
Educational Building  
Please call to register, a meal will be provided.  
This program qualified for CAIP educational credit.

**Casey Co. Cattlemen's Meeting**  
January 18th at 7:00pm  
Casey County Extension Office



**UK Beef Management Webinar Series**

Registration is necessary, however, if you received this email directly from Darrh Bullock then you are already registered. If you received this from another source, or have not registered previously, then please send an email to [dbullock@uky.edu](mailto:dbullock@uky.edu) with Beef Webinar in the subject line and your name and county in the message. You will receive the direct link with a password the morning of each meeting. This invitation will directly link you to the site and you will be asked for the password which can be found just below the link. Each session will be recorded and posted for later viewing. **All meeting times are 8:00pm ET/7:00pm CT.**

December 12, 2023

**Shooting the Bull: Answering all your Beef Related Questions!** – Updates and Roundtable discussion with UK Specialists

January 9, 2024

**Management decisions that impact reproductive efficiency in beef herds** – George Perry, Professor, Texas A&M University

February 13, 2024

**What's the Cost of a Cheap Mineral** – Katie VanValin, Assistant Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

**All sessions qualify for CAIP educational credit.**



**Russell and Casey County Extension**  
**Vegetable Production Workshops**  
**3-Part Series**

Feb. 1: Vegetable Diseases and Control Methods with Dr. Gauthier

Location: Russell Co. Extension Office at 6:00pm EST

Feb. 8: Vegetable Pest and Control Methods with Dr. Bessin

Location: Russell Co. Extension Office at 6:00pm EST

Feb. 22: Vegetable Production Considerations with Dr. Rudolph

Location: Zoom at Casey Co. Extension Office at 6:00pm EST

**All sessions qualify for CAIP educational credit.**

Please call your local Extension office to register by the Monday before each meeting. This helps us to plan for handouts and meal numbers.

Casey: 606-787-7384

Russell: 270-866-4477

# KEEPING YOUR HOUSEPLANTS HAPPY DURING WINTER

Source: Rachel Rudolph, Horticulture Assistant Professor

Even though your houseplants do not have to deal with the cold like your garden does, you should still change how you care for them this season, ensuring they stay healthy and continue to grow well. Following these tips, your leafy friends will bring lushness and natural beauty into your home, even in winter.

## **Decrease watering**

In general, less light means less water. Plants need less water in the winter because they don't get as much sunlight, compared to spring and summer. To test soil moisture, push your finger into the potting soil at least one inch deep. If the soil is dry, water thoroughly. It is better to water plants well less often than water just a little bit every day. In the winter, it is possible that you will only need to water once every two to three weeks.

## **Pay attention to the Sun**

If possible, move your plants closer to the windows. If they're on the ground, put them on a plant stand. Every week or two, rotate the pots to ensure all sides of the plants get some sunlight.

## **It's okay if a few leaves fall off**

Plants outside over the summer will probably lose some leaves when they come back inside. This is normal because they are getting used to the lower light levels inside. It's normal for plants that stay inside all year to lose a few leaves as winter approaches. This is just their way of getting ready for less light.

## **Avoid temperature extremes**

Keep plants away from cold drafts, radiators and hot air vents. Sudden hot or cold drafts can kill plants, stress them out, or dry them out.

## **Put the fertilizer on hold**

Winter is a time for most houseplants to rest. They don't need fertilizer because they usually aren't actively growing. In the fall, stop fertilizing and start back up again in the spring when plants get more sunlight and start growing again.

## **Scan for pests**

If you are bringing plants inside for the winter, be sure to check the leaves, stems and soil surface for pests. Wipe leaves down with a wet cloth or remove pests by hand before bringing the plants inside. Small bugs that feed on sap, like aphids and scales, tend to show up more in the winter. Another common winter pest is the spider mite which likes warm, dry places to live. When watering, flip the leaves over and look at the undersides and along the stems. If you find bugs, use your fingers or damp cloth to remove them. Neem oil and insecticidal soap may be options for managing houseplant pests. With any product, be sure to read the entire label for application instructions and precautions.

## **Increase the humidity**

In the winter, the air inside our heated homes is often drier. Most houseplants, especially those from tropical areas, do best when the humidity is between 40 and 50%. However, in the winter, most homes have humidity levels between 10 and 20%. Putting plants close together is an easy way to make the air around them more humid. Plants can also be put on trays with pebbles and water to make the air more humid. To keep the roots from rotting, pot bottoms should be above the water. As the water evaporates, it makes the air around your houseplants more humid. Keep plants away from vents with blowing air.



# HOW TO HAVE FAMILY CONVERSATIONS ABOUT ESTATE PLANNING

Source: Steve Isaacs, UK Agricultural Economist

Family decisions about inheritance, money and business leadership are never easy and can sometimes be awkward. However, these are extremely important conversations to have with your children or heirs to ensure your wishes for your farm and business are followed.

Don't wait on your heirs to bring up this discussion. This is one of the times you need to take the reins and initiate an in-person conversation. To help the dialog get flowing, you may want to start at the end and discuss your wishes for your funeral and then move into asset division. You may also ask your financial planner or lender to attend; they can also help you start the conversation.

Before this exchange, think of each of your children, their personalities and interests. Ask yourself questions like:

Are they all interested in the family farm?

Are they currently part of the farm's operations?

Is one better with business matters than others?

Will they follow your wishes for family farm preservation?

You never want to create an unnecessary burden or obligation on children with no interest in the property. Your heir(s) should see the estate as an opportunity to continue the family business, not an obligation. At this point, you may need to start sharing information about your farm and its profitability with your heir(s), if you have not already done so. Moving forward, they will need to know where the farm financially stands.

These conversations can put you in a tough position. Some of your heirs may feel like they are getting shortchanged, even if they have no interest in farming or running a business. Be realistic and clear about your wishes and empathetic to your children/heirs. Remember they need to be treated fairly and not necessarily equally. Those not wanting to farm may be given non-farm assets, life insurance proceeds or off-farm investments. Realize that you may not be able to achieve equality in some situations.

Always put your wishes in writing, and have an attorney prepare a will or an estate plan. Dying without these documents could put your successful farm transition in jeopardy. While a will may seem like a final step, it should not be. Revisit it every few years. People change, circumstances change, and sometimes a child with no interest in farming five or 10 years ago may suddenly express an interest.

Clearly stating your wishes to your family members can help prevent family disputes after you leave. For more information on estate planning, contact the Casey County office of the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service.

# SLOW COOKER CHICKEN SANTA FE SOUP



## Ingredients:

- 4 thawed boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 1 (7 ounce) can chopped green chilies
- 1 (8 ounce) bag frozen corn
- 1 (28 ounce) can diced tomatoes, no salt added
- 1 (15 ounce) can black beans
- 1 (14 ounce) can or box vegetable broth, no salt added
- 1 (32 ounce) box low-sodium chicken broth
- 3 tablespoons low sodium chili seasoning mix

## Directions:

- Place all ingredients in slow cooker and simmer on low 6-8 hours or 3-4 hours on high.
- Remove cooked chicken and shred with two forks.
- Return chicken to soup and it is ready-to-serve.



Nutrition facts per serving: 180 calories; 2.5g total fat; 0.5g saturated fat; 0g trans fat; 35mg cholesterol; 740mg sodium; 23g carbohydrate; 4g fiber; 6g sugar; 17g protein; 10% Daily Value of vitamin A; 15% Daily Value of vitamin C; 4% Daily Value of calcium; 8% Daily Value of iron

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