

Casey County Ag News

March 2025

Agent Notes

For the shortest month of the year February never seemed to end, but hey, it's March! This month I've included suggested start dates for garden crops and I also decided to throw in some of the Old Farmer's Almanac "best days" by the moon signs. March is my unofficial get out of hibernation and "get stuff done" month and I'm sure many of you feel the same way. Especially after all the snow and freezing temperatures we have had. While it looks like the mud will be sticking around awhile I'm hopeful we can look forward to some warmer weather.



Kelsey Marcum

Casey County Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent



CASEY COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

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Fun fact: Before 150 B.C., March was the first month of the year. According to the oldest Roman calendars, one year was 10 months long, beginning in March and ending in December. You can still see traces of this old system in our modern calendar: because December was the 10th month, it was named for the number 10 in Latin (decem). January and February were the exceptions: They were just two nameless months called "winter," proving that winter is literally so awful, it doesn't even deserve a spot on the calendar.

Best Days To:

Wean Animals: March 15, 20

Quit Smoking: March 15, 20

Breed Animals: March 17-19

Set Posts or Pour Concrete: March 22-23

Castrate Animals: March 24-26

Start Projects: March 30

Earliest Safe Planting Dates (in garden)

Mar. 10:

collards, onions (sets), radishes, rhubarb (crowns), rutabaga, turnips

Mar. 15:

asparagus (crowns), beets, irish potatoes

Mar. 20:

carrots, chard, kale, kohlrabi, onions (seed), parsley, parsnips

Mar. 25:

cabbage, lettuce, onions (plants)

Cooperative Extension Service

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Community and Economic Development

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Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Upcoming Events

Call 606-787-7384 to register.

Garden Bites: Lettuce & Microgreens

March 11th at 11:00am

Casey Co. Extension Office Educational Building

Garden Bites is a hands-on series exploring the cultivation of specific crops. In this session, we'll dive into growing and harvesting microgreens and lettuces. Plus, we'll whip up a delicious recipe using fresh ingredients!

Casey County Jr Cattlemen's Meeting

March 11th at 6:00pm

Casey Co. Extension Office

Refreshments will be provided.

Private Pesticide Applicator Training

March 13th at 10:00am

Casey Co. Extension office Educational Building

Casey County Cattlemen's Meeting

March 13th at 6:30pm

Casey Co. Extension Office Educational Building

Speaker: Jacob Mattingly, FedCrop Insurance Services, LLC

A meal will be provided.

Preparing Grain and Livestock Producers for the Evolution of Carbon Markets

Dr. Jordan Shockley

March 18th at 6:00pm

Casey Co. Extension Office Educational Building

A meal will be provided.

Qualifies for CAIP Education.

Green River Beekeepers Meeting

March 20th at 7:00pm

Taylor Co. Extension Office

Living On a Few Acres: Vegetable Gardening

March 24th at 2:00pm

Casey Co. Extension Office Educational Building

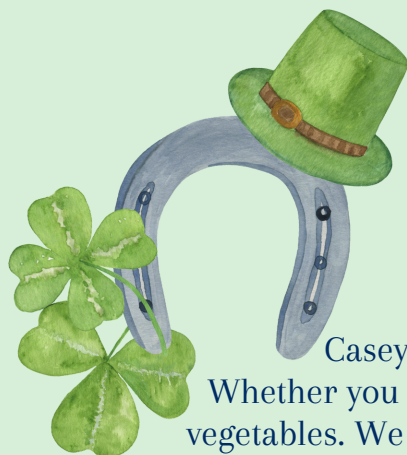
Whether you have a balcony or 15 acres you can grow your own vegetables. We will talk about gardening in small and large spaces.

Building a Raised Bed: A Step-by-Step Guide

March 31st at 2:00pm

Casey Co. Extension Office Educational Building

Discover the benefits of raised bed gardening and learn how to build your own from start to finish!



Other Events

Equine Health & Coggins Clinic

March 9th 9:00am-3:00pm

Central KY Ag/Expo Center

Casey County Veterinary Services, PLLC

Contact 606-787-0030 for more information.



Preparing for a Successful Breeding Season Beef Webinar

March 11th at 7:00pm

Email dbullock@uky.edu to register.

South Central KY Tobacco Growers GAP Training

March 13th at 6:00pm

Garrard Co. Extension Office

Call 606-787-7384 to register.



Cowman's Kind Bull Sale

March 15th

KY-TN Livestock Market

Guthrie, KY

Beef Quality and Care Assurance Certification

April 1st at 10:00am and 4:00pm

Casey Co. Extension Office Educational Building

Hunter Education

April 5th

Casey Co. Extension Office

Participants must register online.

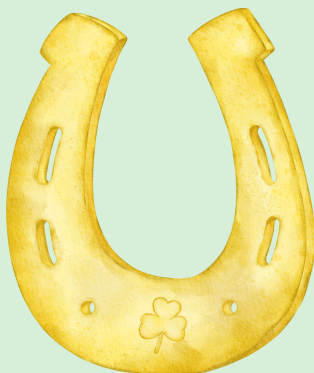
Lake Cumberland Area Sheep & Goat Bootcamp

April 17th at 5:00pm CT

Cumberland Co. Extension Office

Cost: \$20

Call 270-433-7700 to register.



2025 Kentucky Beginning Grazing School

April 29-30

Logan Co. Extension Office

Cost: \$60

Register by mail or online.

March Timely Tips

Cattle:

Spring Calving Herds

- Watch cows and calves closely. Commercial male calves should be castrated and implanted. Registered calves should be weighed at birth.
- Cows that have calved need to be on an adequate nutritional level to rebreed. Increase their feed after calving. Do not let them lose body condition. Keep feeding them until pastures are adequate.
- Do not “rush to grass” although it can be really tempting. Be sure that grass has accumulated enough growth to support the cow’s nutritional needs before depending solely upon it. Cows may walk the pastures looking for green grass instead of eating dry feed. This lush, watery grass is not adequate to support them. Keep them consuming dry feed until sufficient grass is available to sustain body condition.
- Prevent grass tetany! Provide magnesium mineral mix until daytime temperatures are consistently about 60 degrees. Mineral supplement should always be available and contain a minimum of about 14% magnesium. Make sure that your mineral mix also contains adequate selenium, copper and zinc.
- Make final selection of heifer replacements. Strongly consider vaccinating with modified-live BVD vaccine.
- Purchase replacement bulls at least 30 days before the breeding season starts. Have herd bulls evaluated for breeding soundness (10-20% of bulls are questionable or unsatisfactory breeders). Get all bulls in proper condition (BCS 6) for breeding.
- If you are going to use artificial insemination and/or estrous synchronization, make plans now and order need supplies, semen, and schedule a technician.
- Prebreeding or “turnout” working is usually scheduled for late April or May between the end of calving season and before the start of breeding season (while cows are open). Consult with your veterinarian about vaccines and health products your herd needs. Decide now on the products needed and have handling facilities in good working order.

Fall Calving Herds

- Pregnancy check cows now and cull open ones at weaning especially if the cows are older than 6 years of age. You can also blood test for pregnancy as early as 30 days after bull removal.
- Re-implant feeders.
- Consult with your veterinarian about preweaning working of the herd.
- You may let calves creep-graze wheat or rye if it is available. Calves will benefit from extra feed until spring grass appears.
- Plan your marketing strategy for feeder calves.

Stockers

- Do not go to pastures too soon, give plants some growing time. Then stock at two to three times the July rate and rotate rapidly.
- “Condition” purchased calves prior to grazing. They should be processed and fed a conditioning diet prior to being placed on pasture. You can also use this time to introduce them to electric fences used in rotational grazing.
- Provide a good mineral supplement which contains a rumen modifier (Rumensin, Bovatec, etc) along with adequate levels of copper and selenium.

General

- We have made a muddy mess this winter, so be prepared to reseed bare spots. Our forage group has excellent information on restoring heavy-traffic areas.
- Make plans to improve hay feeding areas to avoid muddy conditions like we have faced this winter. Consider geotextile fabric with gravel or concrete feeding pads.
- Prepare for the grazing season. Check fences and make necessary repairs. Check your corral too.
- Get everything ready to make high quality hay in May. Have equipment serviced and spare parts on hand. Order baler twine now. Be prepared to harvest an adequate supply of hay when you have the opportunity. Re-supply the extra hay that you fed out of the barn.
- Plan now for fly control. Decide what fly control program that you will use but do not put insecticide ear tags on cattle until fly population appears.
- If you have a dry, sunny day, use chain-link harrow to spread manure in areas where cattle have overwintered. This may be done in conjunction with renovation.
- Watch for lice and treat if needed.

Forage:

- Continue pasture renovation by no-till seeding legumes.
- Place small seed at 1/4 to 1/2 inch deep and check depth several times while planting; slow down for more precise seeding.
- Continue feeding hay until adequate forage exists in the pasture for grazing.
- Begin smoothing and re-seeding hay feeding and heavy traffic areas.
- Graze pastures overseeded with clover to reduce competition from existing grasses (pull off before grazing new clover plants).
- Spring seeding of grasses should be done in early to mid-March (but fall is preferred).

Flowers:

- Prune roses and summer/fall flowering shrubs.
- Burning Bush, Boxwood, Holly, Taxus, Laurel, and other evergreens can be pruned now until July.

Vegetables:

- Start seeds indoors for tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, sweet potato slips.
- Move cabbage and kohlrabi transplants to garden.
- Fertilize asparagus and rhubarb with 1# of 5-10-10 per 100 sq ft.
- Dig and divide any 4-year old rhubarb plants.

Fruit:

- Prune fruit trees; peach trees are sensitive to colder weather, wait until harsh weather is over to prune them.
- Plan your spray schedule for fruit as spraying on time is essential for disease and insect control.

Dustin Worthington "I Love Cows" Essay Contest Application

Deadline - March 3rd

Award Presentation - April 4th

A memorial award has been established in Memory of Dustin Worthington. Dustin worked in the cattle industry, until his death on April 4, 2000. Dustin's main interest in life was working with cattle. The award established is a heifer calf that is presented to a 4-H or FFA member. The purpose of the program is to share the passion Dustin had for working with cattle. The goal is for youth to develop their heifer and to potentially start their own herd. Someday become a profitable business that will aid in paying for education or starting his or her own herd. Each year the awards are presented on April 4th. Current winners and past winners are encouraged but not required to give back to the program by donating the first-born heifer to continue the program for future years.

Updated Publication! Corn Foliar Efficacy 2025

This will be handy in this year of tight margins, as we get questions about using generic or off-patent products for corn fungicide applications. The table will allow you to compare product efficacy to determine which product will be both effective and a good economic choice.

March Herbicide Weed Control

Common Burdock	Dandelion	Poison Hemlock
Buttercup	Purple Deadnettle	Henbit
Common Chickweed	Dock	Plantain
Chicory	Wild Garlic	Red Sorrel
	Thistle	

Refer to AGR-207 for herbicide recommendations or call us for more information.

Disaster Assistance

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

To be eligible for LIP:

- A livestock owner must have legally owned the livestock on the day the livestock died and/or were injured by an eligible loss condition.
- An owner's livestock must have either:
 - died in excess of normal mortality as a direct results of an eligible loss condition,
 - or been injured as a direct result of an eligible loss condition and were sold at a reduced price.

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP)

ELAP covers losses that are not covered under other disaster assistance programs such as the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) and the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP).

An eligible producer is a person or legal entity who:

- During the 60 calendar days before the beginning date of the eligible adverse weather or or loss condition, owned, cash-leased, purchased, entered into a contract to purchase or been a contract grower of eligible livestock;
 - suffered a loss on land that is either:
 - native or improved pastureland with a permanent vegetative cover: or
 - planted to a crop specifically for the purpose of providing grazing for covered livestock: and
 - provided pastureland or grazing land during the normal grazing period to eligible livestock, including cash-leased pastureland or grazing land for livestock that is physically located in the county where the eligible adverse weather or loss condition occurred during the normal grazing period.

**For more information on these programs visit
fsa.usda.gov or go to your USDA Service Center.**

Squirrel Pot Pie



Servings: 6

Serving Size: 1/6th of pie

Ingredients:

2 squirrels, cut in half

3 cups chicken stock

4 tablespoons flour

1/2 cup sliced mushrooms, about 2 ounces

1/2 cup chopped celery, about 1 rib

1 small onion, diced

1 cup frozen mixed vegetables

1/2 teaspoon garlic powder

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon pepper

1 refrigerated pie crust

1 tablespoon milk

Directions:

Wash hands with warm water and soap, scrubbing for at least 20 seconds.

Place squirrels in large stockpot. Add chicken stock and cover. Bring to a boil over medium high heat.

Reduce heat and simmer 1 hour.

Wash mushrooms, celery, and onion; with a clean vegetable brush under running water before preparing.

Preheat oven to 400 degrees F.

Remove pot with squirrels from heat and let sit 10 to 15 minutes or until meat is cool enough to handle.

Use tongs to remove meat and bones from broth. Separate and discard all bones and cartilage. Chop any large pieces of meat.

Place a colander over a large bowl and strain broth to remove any additional bones. In a small bowl, stir cooled broth, 1 tablespoon at a time, into flour until a smooth liquid is achieved.

Return remaining broth to pot. Stir flour mixture into broth and heat, stirring, until broth comes to a boil and has thickened.

Add meat, all vegetables, and seasonings to broth, and stir to mix.

Pour mixture into a deep-dish pie plate or baking dish.

Cover squirrel mixture with premade pie crust. Slit crust to vent.

Brush top of crust with milk.

Bake 40 minutes or until golden brown.

Serve immediately. Store leftovers in the refrigerator within 2 hours.