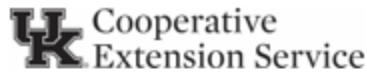


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Farm Update

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AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES
EDUCATION

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Daviess County Extension Office

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Cattleman's Convention in Owensboro this Week

During the month of January, news article topics are easy to come by for me because of the many educational meetings and conventions that are going to occur locally and across the state. It is impossible to attend them all, but more than one will offer advice, information, and updates that can have a positive impact on your success in 2026. Consider attending educational meetings sponsored by the Cooperative Extension Service and other organizations as professional development for your farm or agri-business.

The Kentucky Cattlemen's Convention is being held this Thursday and Friday at the Owensboro Convention Center. If you have beef cattle, plan to come out and support the event being held right here in Owensboro. The two-day convention begins Thursday morning with the schedule offering a variety of activities. Thursday morning sessions will pertain primarily to genetics and management that will increase beef cattle efficiency. Friday morning sessions will pertain to forage and how to reduce reliance on purchased fertilizer. Nutrient cycling, bale grazing, and increased production will be discussed. The exposition halls will be filled with exhibitors showcasing the latest products available for beef production. On-site registration is available.

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Grain Day Legacy Series

Early last fall, the planning committee of the annual Ag Expo event made a difficult, and appropriate, decision to no longer host the Ag Expo. This event has been held at the Owensboro Convention Center since 2014 and at numerous other locations around town since the first “Grain Day” was held at the Dugan Best Park Recreation Center in 1975. Declining attendance and increasing costs justified the decision to reevaluate the program and its purpose.

The result is the Grain Day Legacy Series to be offered in January and February. Three events will be held pertaining to crop disease, marketing, management, and soil fertility.

Dr. Carl Bradley will be at the Daviess County Extension office on January 21 at 9:00 a.m. to discuss the developing soybean disease, red crown rot. While it has not been confirmed in Daviess County, red crown rot has been identified in western Kentucky. Dr. Bradley has been conducting research on this disease for several years and has information on how to manage it. This meeting will qualify for fulfilling the private pesticide applicator certification.

The Grain Day Legacy series will continue January 28 at 8:30 a.m. in Blandford Lecture Hall in the Humanities Building at Owensboro Community & Technical College. On that day, Drs. Dave Kohl and Grant Gardner will present timely insights, including Dr. Kohl’s session, Business and Financial Tools for Turbulent Times. 2026 is going to be a challenging year financially. Attendees will receive an update on grain market expectations and information Dr. Kohl has to share regarding how to manage through this challenging period.

February 4 will conclude the series at my office, beginning at 8:30 a.m. with Drs. Edwin Ritchey and John Grove. They have been conducting research on fertilizers, soil amendments,

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and microbial products marketed for grain production. They will discuss their results and recommendations on how to maintain yield and lower expenses in 2026.

Kentucky Commodity Conference

The annual membership meetings of the Kentucky Soybean Association, Kentucky Corn Growers Association, and Kentucky Small Grain Growers Association will be this Thursday at the Sloan Convention Center in Bowling Green. In addition, there will be educational meetings related to grain marketing, an update from the USDA, and an update on grain crops research happening at the University of Kentucky. An awards celebration of grain yield contest winners will be at 6:30 p.m.

Grain Crop Budgets Available

Everyone is working on getting their 2025 taxes ready to file and preparing for the upcoming season. To help you in planning your cash flow needs and determining the best crop rotation plan, the University of Kentucky has planning budgets available to download and use for all Kentucky farm enterprises. They provide current prices and anticipated expenses, or you can add your specific information, such as land rent and machinery expenses. Budgets are online at <https://agecon.mgcafe.uky.edu/extension/publications-budgets-decision-aids>.

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