


# Trimble County Extension February 2025 ~ Newsletter

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

 Cooperative  
Extension Service

Trimble County Cooperative Extension  
43 High Country Lane  
Bedford, KY 40006 ph 502.255.7188  
webpage: trimble.ca.uky.edu



## In the Face of DISASTER



*Series presented by Trimble County Extension Service in  
Cooperation with Andrew Stark,  
Trimble County Emergency Management Director*  
[February 11, 2025](#)

Preparing and protecting your family before a natural disaster  
Navigating Trauma after a natural disaster  
[February 24, 2025](#)

Considerations for elderly and people with disabilities before a disaster  
[March 13, 2025](#)

Food and water safety before and after a natural disaster  
Financial management before and after disaster  
[March 24, 2025](#)

On farm preparedness before and after a natural disaster

**All sessions 6:00 p.m. at the  
Trimble County Extension Service  
Please call to rsvp (502) 255-7188 by 2/10/25**

Cooperative  
Extension Service

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

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating. Lexington, KY 40506



### **Homemakers Cultural Arts Contest**

*Homemaker members are invited to place entries in the county cultural arts contest. Winners will compete in the Louisville Area Homemaker contest.  
**Entry Deadline: February 14, 2025 ~ 4:30 p.m.**  
Call or stop by for a list of categories.*

### **Trimble Thimbles Sewing Group**

Trimble County Extension Service  
9:00 a.m. ~ 2nd & 4th Saturday of each month  
February dates: 2/8 & 2/22  
New or experienced - All are welcome!



### **Simply Sharing Homemakers**

#### **Gratitude in the New Year**

February 18, 2025 10:30 a.m.  
*Please note this is a Tuesday!*

#### **Trimble County Extension Service**

*A pitch in lunch will follow the lesson. Please call to rsvp (502) 255-7188*

### **Louisville Area Homemaker Leader Lesson Seminar**

March 11, 2025 - Henry County Extension  
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Lunch provided!  
Three leader lessons presented.  
\$12 registration fee - call (502) 255-7188  
to register by 2/28/25.

# **STEP INTO NATURE 2.0**

edibles ~ wildflowers ~ walks



**Must  
RSVP!  
(502) 255-7188**

**Eric Comley,**  
*Garrard County Extension Agent  
presents "Wild Edibles"*

**FEBRUARY 25, 2025 6:00 P.M.**  
Trimble County Extension Service  
43 High Country Lane, Bedford KY

For those wanting to participate - Group walks scheduled for:  
March 20 ~ March 27 ~ April 3 ~ April 10 ~ April 15  
Meet 1:30 p.m. at the Trimble County Extension Service.  
Locations to be announced!

#### **Family and Consumer Sciences Upcoming Dates at a glance:**

- |                                |                                  |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2/8 Trimble Thimbles           | 3/8 Trimble Thimbles             |
| 2/11 In the face of disaster   | 3/11 Homemaker Leader Lesson Day |
| 2/14 Cultural Arts Submissions | 3/13 In the Face of Disaster     |
| 2/18 Simply Sharing            | 3/20 Step Into Nature Walk       |
| 2/22 Trimble Thimbles          | 3/22 Trimble Thimbles            |
| 2/24 In the Face of Disaster   | 3/24 In the Face of Disaster     |
| 2/25 Step Into Nature 2.0      | 3/27 Step Into Nature Walk       |

*Details and times are in the graphics*

## 4-H Youth Development

### Trimble County 4-H Horse Club



February 11, 2025  
6:30 PM

Trimble County Extension Service

Owners and non-horse owners welcome!

### Trimble County 4-H Livestock Club

February 18, 2025  
6:30 PM

Trimble County Park

Open to youth ages 9-19.  
Cloverbuds 5 years +  
Come join us!



## WHAT IS Kentucky 4-H



**UK** Kentucky 4-H Youth Development

*Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment*

4-H is America's largest youth development organization, empowering nearly six million young people with the skills to lead for a lifetime. Kentucky 4-H reaches on average 200,000 youth each year.

In 4-H, we believe in the power of young people. We see that every child has valuable strengths and real influence to improve the world around us.

### We believe in:

- All young people's potential
- Developing young people who are empowered, confident, hard-working, determined, responsible and compassionate
- Seeing a world beyond themselves so that they have life-long skills to succeed in college and their career
- Ensuring access
- The power of being a part of America's leading public universities
- The practice of positive youth development
- Caring and trusted adult mentors who cultivate positive relationships with youth
- Creating safe environments that represent our communities and people
- Meeting young people wherever they are

## Mission

Kentucky 4-H provides education and life skill development opportunities for youth to grow into confident, capable, and contributing members of their communities.

## Vision

4-H is a community of young people across Kentucky who are learning communication, civic engagement, and leadership skills.

*Adapted from the KY 4-H Annual Report 23-24*



**UK** Cooperative Extension Service

## 4-H CAMP June 30 - July 4, 2025 Reservation Form

Youth ages 9 - 18 years.

To reserve your spot please fill out this form and return it along with the camp deposit to the Trimble County Extension Service office as soon as possible.

Once returned, a full camper application will be mailed to you.

Camper Name \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ M / F

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Campers T-Shirt Size \_\_\_\_\_

How many years have you attended camp? \_\_\_\_\_

Request Outpost? (primitive camping) Y / N

**2025 Cost: \$175.00**

A deposit of \$25(non-refundable) must be made at time of reservation.

Full payment must be made prior to camp. Deadline for payments:

**June 13 if by check, June 20 if cash**

A limited number of \$50 scholarships will be available for those who request financial assistance. (limit 1 per family) Check here \_\_\_\_\_.

Trimble County Extension Service  
PO Box 244 / 43 High Country Lane  
Bedford KY 40006  
(502) 255-7188

Extension Agent for 4-H Youth Development

**Cooperative Extension Service**

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

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University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.  
Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

# Agriculture & Natural Resources

## Upcoming Dates

### February

**February 6th: Small Ruminant School (pt.3)**

Trimble County Extension Office, 6pm

**February 10th: Water Quality & Pond Management**

Trimble County Extension Office, 6pm

**February 12th-14th: Louisville Farm Machinery Show**

**February 20th: Pesticide Applicator Training**

Trimble County Extension Office, 1pm

**February 20th: Making Hay for Horses**

Henry County Extension Office, 6pm

**February 21st: Grain Production Update**

Shelby County 9:30am (lunch provided)

**February 25th: KY Alfalfa and Stored Forage Conference**

Fayette County Extension Office Register: <https://forages.ca.uky.edu/events>

**February 25th: Farm Management Strategies**

Trimble County Extension Office, 6pm

### March

**March 6th: Celebrating Women in Agriculture**

Trimble County Extension Office, 5:30pm

**March 10th: Gardening- Growing Herbs**

Trimble County Extension Office, 6pm

**March 14th: Pesticide Applicator Training**

Trimble County Extension Office, 1pm

**March 18th: Marketing 3.0**

Shelby County Extension Office, 6pm

**March 20th: Landscaping Science**

Trimble County Extension Office, 6pm

**March 25th: Marketing 3.0**

Henry County Extension Office, 6pm

**March 27th: Pesticide Applicator Training**

Trimble County Extension Office, 10 am

**March 31st: Trimble Farmer's Market Planning**

Trimble County Extension Office, 6pm

As always, please contact me for farm visits or any questions you may have regarding programs offered.

*Regina Utz*

Agent for Ag & Natural Resources  
[regina.utz@uky.edu](mailto:regina.utz@uky.edu)

## Field Guide to Kentucky's Invasive Plants

This guide provides detailed profiles of the most prevalent invasive trees, shrubs, vines, grasses and herbaceous plants that threaten Kentucky's ecosystem

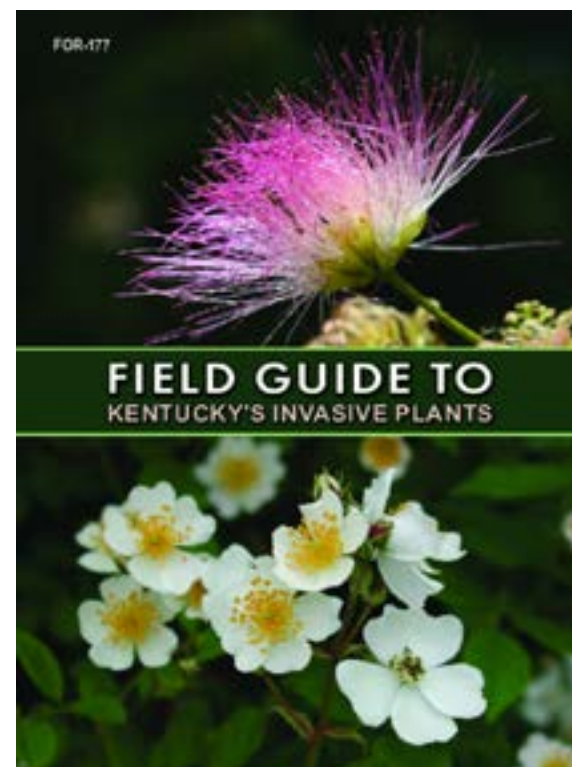
- **Species profiles:** Clear descriptions and images to help with identification
- **Control strategies:** Step-by-step recommendations, from manual removal to chemical treatments

Download at:


<https://publications.ca.uky.edu/177>

Or pick up a copy today at

Trimble County Extension Service



# Water Quality and Pond Management

 Cooperative Extension Service

 **FEBRUARY 10, 2025 | 6:00 PM**  
**Trimble County Extension Service**  
**43 High Country Lane, Bedford, KY**

Lee Moser, UK Ag Extension Associate for soil and water quality will be speaking on keeping water ways clean for livestock drinking, alternative watering sources for livestock and learning local watersheds. In addition, pond management techniques for farmers and producers will be offered.

Please register to (502) 255-7188  
In the event of inclement weather, we will post update &/or call registrants.

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# Grain Production Update

**February 21, 2025**

9:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Shelby County Extension Service  
1117 Frankfort Road, Shelbyville,, KY

- ✓ Pre-harvest marketing plan
- ✓ Soybean production
- ✓ Corn Production
- ✓ Disease management

**Lunch provided!**

**Call (502) 255-7188 to RSVP by 2/19/25**



## Farm Management Strategies for Improved Decision-Making

**February 25, 2025**  
**6:00 p.m.**

Trimble County Extension Service

**Presented by**

**Jordan Shockley**

Associate Extension Professor,  
University of Kentucky  
Department of Agricultural  
Economics

- ✓ Developing a business plan
- ✓ Assessing financial performance on the farm
- ✓ Understanding cost production
- ✓ Resources within the Ag Econ Department
- ✓ Mobile apps for economics

*An equal opportunity University*

**New for 2025!**  
**Quarterly Program Area Supplemental Pages**  
**This month includes additional**  
**Agriculture and Natural Resources information**

### Keep Them Fit!

*Dr. Les Anderson, Beef Extension Specialist, University of Kentucky*

While reading some industry information, I was reminded about an article Dr. Burriss wrote for Cow Country News a few years ago. The focus of his article was to treat your herd bulls like an athlete; keep them fit and in great working shape. As always, it was a super article and is still relevant. Recently, more research has been done on bull fitness and fertility that is quite interesting.

We have known for years that over-conditioning bulls is detrimental to their fertility. When bulls are over fed and their body condition score get excessive (> 7), fat begins to build up in the scrotum and in the spermatic cord. Fat is an excellent insulator and this buildup of fat in the neck of the scrotum leads to an increase in scrotal temperature. For optimum sperm production, the testis needs to be about two degrees cooler than body temperature and this buildup of fat especially in the neck of the testis (around the spermatic cord) can lead to abnormal sperm development. When these fatter bulls are subjected to a breeding soundness exam, they are more likely to fail due to an increase in abnormalities with sperm morphology and motility. More work from Dr. Pedro Fontes at the University of Georgia also indicated that bulls with more backfat were more likely have defects in the development of sperm and to fail a breeding soundness exam.

Dr. Fontes has completed some fascinating work extending our knowledge on the impact of bull condition on fertility. He recently used IVF to exam the ability of sperm from moderately- and overconditioned bulls to fertilize an oocyte resulting in the proper development of an embryo. His research demonstrated that if an oocyte was fertilized by an over-conditioned bull the resulting embryo was less likely to continue to develop. His work suggests that bull diet and condition can negatively impact the ability of an embryo to grow and may lead to increases in early embryonic mortality. His studies examined both mature and young, developing bulls and the results did not vary. Interestingly, in this work sperm morphology and motility were similar between over-conditioned bulls and moderately conditioned bulls suggesting the reduced embryonic survival may run deeper than simple changes in sperm development. Truly fascinating work.

Over-conditioning not only impacts sperm production, but it also reduces the bull's interest in breeding cows. Research from Australia indicated that over-conditioned bulls also have lower libido, and their serving capacity was significantly lower than moderately conditioned bulls. Research from Canada clinched the nail on the head. The goal of this research was to identify factors associated with the male that impacts pregnancy in pasture situations. Considerable data on the bulls was collected including scrotal circumference, a wide variety of sperm traits, and back fat thickness. These 277 bulls of British and Continental breeds were turned out with over 9,000 cows and pregnancy was assessed after the end of a 70-day breeding season. Of all the measurements taken, backfat thickness of the bull had the highest significant correlation with failure to breed. Basically, fatter bulls got fewer cows pregnant.

So, as Dr. Burriss advised years ago, keep your bulls fit and think of them like athletes. Also, we are entering bull buying season so find bulls that not only meet your herds genetic needs but also are in proper body condition. If a bull's BCS exceeds 6, check to see if his scrotum looks blocky and full of fat and avoid purchasing him. Once you get your bull home, manage his diet and exercise to keep him in a BCS of 5-6. The pregnancy rate of your herd may depend on it!

## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: Improve Hay Quality in 2025

Dr. Chris Teutsch, Forage Extension, UK Grain and Forage Center of Excellence at Princeton

A good New Year's Resolution for 2025 would be to improve hay quality! Making just a few small tweaks to your hay production program can make a big difference in hay quality. Below is a short list of things that you can implement to improve hay quality and production on your farm.

- Fertilize and lime according to soil test. A balanced fertility program is essential for optimizing hay yield and quality. Phosphorus, potassium, and lime should be applied according to soil test results. Avoid using "complete" fertilizers such as 10-10-10. These fertilizers commonly over apply phosphorus and under apply potash.

- Apply nitrogen early to promote rapid spring growth. Applying 80 lb N/A in mid- to late March will promote early growth

in hay meadows, resulting in higher first harvest yields with improved crude protein values. Recent research at the University of Kentucky has shown that fall nitrogen fertilization promotes hay growth in the spring. In fact, 80 lb N/A applied in the fall was equivalent to more than 100 lb N/A applied in the spring.

- Harvest at the boot stage. The single most important factor impacting forage quality is stage of maturity at harvest. Hayfields should be mowed as soon as the grass reaches the late boot-stage. The boot stage occurs when the sheath of the flag leaf swells just prior to the emergence of the seed head. By making the first cutting in a timely manner, we will have time to make a leafy second cutting just prior to the summer months.

- Mow early in day. Some studies have shown that sugars tend to be highest in late afternoon, making this the optimal time of day to cut. However, in high rainfall environment like Kentucky, maximizing curing time is the highest priority. Therefore, hay should be mowed in mid to late morning after the dew has dried off.

- Use mower-conditioner. Conditioning the stems allows moisture to escape at a faster rate. This shortens curing time and improves your chances of avoiding rain. Conditioning is especially important for first cutting grasses, summer annual grasses, and legumes, all of which tend to have larger stems.

- Set swath on mower-conditioner to the widest possible setting. Maximizing the swath width decreases curing or wilting time by exposing a larger portion of the forage to direct sunlight.

- Rake or ted at 40-50% moisture content. Raking and tedding the forage while it is still pliable helps to reduce leaf loss and maintain forage quality. Once the moisture content is below 40%, leaf loss increases, especially in legumes such as alfalfa and clover.

- Bale at 18-20% moisture. Baling in this moisture range inhibits mold growth and reduces heating. Avoid baling hay that is excessively dry due to high levels of leaf loss and hay that is above 20% moisture due to heating and potential hay fires.

- Store dry hay under cover and off the ground. Protecting hay from weathering helps to reduce dry matter losses and maintain forage quality. Much of the weathering damage is a result of the hay bale wicking moisture up from the ground. So, storing hay off the ground can greatly reduce deterioration.

- Consider using baleage. The biggest advantage of baleage is the shortened period between mowing and baling. In many cases, hay can be mowed one day and baled the next. This facilitates harvesting hay at the correct stage of growth, the NUMBER ONE factor impacting forage quality. To learn more about baleage see AGR-235 Baleage: Frequently Asked Questions.

If you need help with hay sampling or interpreting your hay test results, contact your extension agent.



Second annual

## Celebrating Women in Agriculture

March 6, 2025

5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Trimble County Extension Service

~ Guest speakers

~ Networking

~ Appetizers

Come join us! Rsvp to (502) 255-7188



master your marketing with

# marketing for all 3.0

**Are you ready to take your marketing to the next level?**

This in-depth marketing course is for Kentucky producers at any point in their business.

Join the Center for Crop Diversification for our 6-week marketing course to develop and refine your skills as a direct-to-consumer small-business marketer.

Hosted by: Oldham, Henry, Shelby & Trimble Counties

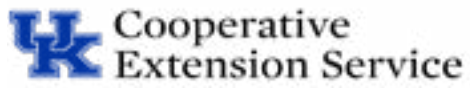
Tuesdays, March 18 - April 22  
Meal 5:30 p.m. Program 6:00 p.m.

This course is designed to give you dedicated time to work on your farm marketing alongside the Center for Crop Diversification team and other growers in your area. It is designed to work for people at any stage of their farm business.

 **Center for Crop Diversification**  
Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment

For questions or to register, email Camille Stevens [camille.dant@uky.edu](mailto:camille.dant@uky.edu)





Trimble County  
PO Box 244  
43 High Country Lane  
Bedford, KY 40006-0244

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