

**CARTER COUNTY
AGRICULTURE &
NATURAL RESOURCES
NEWSLETTER**



Carter County

94 Fairground Drive Grayson, KY 41143

Phone: (606) 474-6686 Fax: (606) 474-8542

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January 2025

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Highlights:

- ⇒ Top Carter County Score in the 2024 East KY Hay Contest: Danny Carroll
- ⇒ The deadline for Drought Assistance Relief from the Farm Service Agency is January 30th. See page 5 for details.
- ⇒ Rootstock Orders Due by February 1st. Order Form on page 11.
- ⇒ Berry Plant Orders Due by February 10th. Order Form on page 6.



Enjoy your newsletter,

Rebecca Konopka

Rebecca Konopka,
Carter County Extension Agent for
Agriculture & Natural Resources Education

**Cooperative
Extension Service**

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

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Upcoming Events

**Denotes events where preregistration is required.
Call 474-6686 or email Rebecca.k@uky.edu to register.**

Little Sandy Beekeepers Association

Tue, Jan 7 2025, 6:30 pm Carter County Extension Office
Topic: Catching Swarms

Ag Advancement Council

Mon, Jan 13 2025, 6:00 pm Carter County Extension Office

County Extension Council & District Board Meetings

Tue, Jan 14 2025, 10:00 am Carter County Extension Office

Beef Quality & Care Assurance (BQCA) Training**

Tue, Jan 21 2025, 6:00-7:45pm Carter County Extension Office

Ag Lenders Conference**

Wed, Jan 22 2025, 10:00-2:00 Fleming County Extension Office

Small Ruminant Quality Assurance (SRQA) Training**

Fri, Jan 24 2025, 10:00-11:45 am Carter County Extension Office

Northeast Area Livestock Association Meeting

Tue, Jan 28 2025, 6:00 pm Carter County Extension Office
Topic: Cattle Traceability Rule & Electronic Identification Tags
Producers can sign up for a Premise ID and receive free RFID tags at the meeting.

Small Ruminant Quality Assurance (SRQA) Training**

Tue, Feb 4 2025, 6:00-7:45pm Carter County Extension Office

Little Sandy Beekeepers Association

Tue, Feb 4 2025, 6:30 pm Carter County Extension Office

Private Pesticide Applicator Training**

Thu, Feb 6 2025, 9:00-12:00 Carter County Extension Office

★★★
**BULL VALUE
ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

★★ Carter County Extension Office ★★
606-474-6686 | carter.ca.uky.edu/anr



FEBRUARY 13 & 27 | 6:00 PM

SESSION 1
BREEDING SOUNDNESS EXAMS
BULL NUTRITIONAL MANAGEMENT
MATCHING GENETICS TO MANAGEMENT
TARGETING FOR SELECTED MARKETS
TOOLS FOR SELECTION

SESSION 2
MOCK AUCTION
MEAL WILL BE PROVIDED
BOTH NIGHTS.
**MUST ATTEND BOTH
SESSIONS**

**REGISTRATION IS LIMITED - SCAN
THE QR CODE ABOVE OR CONTACT
YOUR LOCAL EXTENSION OFFICE.**

State Apiarist Office Hours

Starting in January - Monthly Zoom Meeting with
Kentucky State Apiarist: Amanda Skidmore

Date: Thursday, January 23, 2025
Time: 12pm EST/11am CT.

If you would like to participate, please fill out the
google form (QR Code) and I will add you to my
email list where you will be able to sign up for the
meetings!

Questions? Email me at: Amanda.Skidmore@ky.gov



Winter Certification Trainings

All sessions require preregistration. Call 474-6686 or email Rebecca.k@uky.edu to register. Sessions will be canceled if no one preregisters. Cancellation notifications due to weather will be provided to those who preregister.

Private Pesticide Applicator Training

This training is required for those wishing to purchase and apply restricted use pesticides. A valid ID is required for training. There is no cost for attending the training.



**** Thursday, February 6th from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM**

**** Monday, March 10th from 5:30-8:30 PM**

Beef Quality & Care Assurance (BQCA) Training

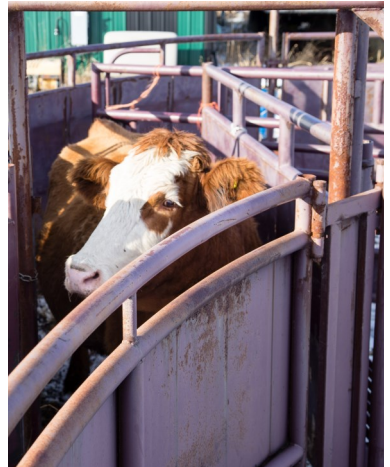
The Beef Quality & Care Assurance Program's mission is to maximize consumer confidence in and acceptance of beef by focusing the producer's attention to daily production practices that influence the safety, wholesomeness and quality of beef and beef products through the use of science, research and education initiatives.

BQCA training is required for cattle reimbursement in the large animal CAIP investment area. Training is open to all producers though.

Cost is \$5. Farm gate signs are an additional \$5. Training is also available online at kybeefnetwork.com.

**** Tuesday, January 21st from 6:00-7:45 PM**

**** Friday, March 7th from 10:00-11:45 AM**



Small Ruminant Quality Assurance (SRQA) Training

Increase your knowledge of best management practices necessary to insure your sheep & goat products are being marketed at the highest quality.



SRQA is required for sheep or goat reimbursement in the small animal CAIP investment area. Training is open to all producers though.

Cost is \$5. Training is also available online at www.kysheepandgoat.org/srqa.

****Friday, January 24th from 10:00 –11:45 AM**

****Tuesday, February 4th from 6:00-7:45 PM**

Disaster Assistance for 2024 Livestock Forage Losses

Producers in (Boyd, Carter, Lawrence, Greenup) are eligible to apply for 2024 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) benefits on the following pasture types: Full Season Improved Pasture, Native Pasture, and Forage Sorghum.

LFP provides compensation if you suffer grazing losses for covered livestock due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or fire on federally managed land.

County committees can only accept LFP applications after notification is received by the National Office of qualifying drought or if a federal agency prohibits producers from grazing normal permitted livestock on federally managed lands due to qualifying fire.

You must complete a CCC-853 and the required supporting documentation no later than January 30, 2025, for 2024 losses.

For additional information about LFP, or to make an appointment contact the Grayson USDA Service Center at 606-474-5183 (Boyd, Carter, Lawrence) or Vanceburg at 606-796-3866 (Greenup) or visit fsa.usda.gov.



Berry Plant Order Form

Order & Payment is required by February 10th. Please pay with check or exact change. Make checks payable to: Carter County Ag Council.



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Plants should arrive by the end of April. All plants will need to be picked up at the Carter County Extension Office. Refunds will not be issued due to late pickup. Price includes tax.

OFFICE USE ONLY: Date: _____
 Amount Paid: _____
 Check #: _____ Cash: _____
 Received By: _____

Purchaser Information

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

QUANTITY	ITEM (All plants are bare root.)	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
	Strawberries (Seascape—Day Neutral, Heavy Producing Variety)	\$8 (bundle of 25)	
	Strawberries (Earliglow—Sweet, Early Season Variety)	\$8 (bundle of 25)	
	Strawberries (FlavorFest—Midseason Variety with Large Berries)	\$8 (bundle of 25)	
	Blackberries (Triple Crown – Thornless, Semi-erect plant with large, glossy fruit. May require trellising.)	\$13 (per plant)	
	Black Raspberries (Jewel—Winter hardy, productive & vigorous)	\$13 (per plant)	
		Total Due	

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Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

Berry Plant Information

Brambles

Raspberries and blackberries, commonly called brambles, grow well in Kentucky. With favorable growing conditions and proper care, a raspberry planting may produce for 8-12 years. Blackberry plants usually live longer than raspberries, because they are better adapted to Kentucky's climate. They both have biennial canes and perennial roots. The roots and crowns live for a number of years and produce a new crop of canes each spring, while the fruit matures on last season's canes.

Deep, fertile soil that is well drained, high in humus and free from hardpans is best for brambles. However, almost any well-drained soil can be modified to grow brambles. Planting brambles on raised beds may help reduce root rot and prolong the life of the planting. Trickle irrigation and mulching will help ensure good plant growth and high yield. When possible, plant brambles on a northern slope or where there is afternoon shade. Such soils are cooler and hold moisture better.

Remember to purchase certified, virus-free stock when possible. The two bramble varieties available through the Extension Office are:

- ⇒ ***Triple Crown (Blackberry)*** - The berry is named for its three crowning attributes – flavor, productivity and vigor. The plants yield large, glossy black fruit that are pleasantly firm. Plants can be trellised or grown upright and pruned to a height of about 42”.
- ⇒ ***Jewel (Black Raspberry)*** - The plant is vigorous, erect, consistently productive and widely adapted. The fruit ripens early and the ripening season is concentrated. The berries are large, with glossy skin, coherent, firm, of superior quality and excellent flavor.

Strawberries

For the best strawberry results, select a site with deep, sandy loam soil well supplied with organic matter. Clay soils can produce a good crop if the site has been prepared to drain well and has added organic matter. Fields with heavy perennial weed pressure should not be planted to strawberries. Avoid fields that have been in potatoes, tobacco, peppers, eggplants or tomatoes due to potential problems with Verticillium wilt. Strawberries need to be located on ground higher than the surrounding area to reduce the chance of spring frost damage. A protective straw mulch should be applied when plants become dormant in late fall and removed the following spring. Strawberries are commonly grouped as either June-bearing, everbearing,

or day-neutral. **June-bearing varieties** have been grown in Kentucky for many years. They are typically planted in early spring and blossoms are removed during the first season to encourage runner establishment. A full crop is harvested during the second and subsequent seasons. June-bearing varieties produce flowers under shortday conditions. Early varieties may be more subject to frost injury because of their bloom time, and the opened blossom is at the stage of fruit development most susceptible for frost injury. Strawberry varieties all ripen about 30 days after bloom. June-bearing strawberries normally produce the largest yield per season, in a short period of time. If you want enough berries for freezing and processing choose June Bearers. The two June-bearing varieties being offered by the Extension Office this year are:

⇒ **Earliglow** sets the standard for traditional strawberry taste. It is the max for fresh out of the garden eating, jams and freezing. So sweet no sugar is needed. For years Earliglow has been one of the biggest sellers in the Eastern U.S. for gardeners and smaller commercial growers. It is the earliest fruiting variety available. The first and second pickings are nice sized berries for eating out of hand and the later pickings are fantastic for jams and freezing.

⇒ **Flavorfest** performs well on plasticulture as well as matted row. Flavorfest has shown consistent high yields, bright red and excellent flavor. Also shows good resistance to red stele and most stem and leaf diseases as well as no susceptibility to anthracnose crown or fruit rot.

Everbearing and day-neutral strawberries are very similar under Kentucky conditions. Both produce few runners and flower buds develop regardless of the day length. They typically yield three crops during a season: a moderate spring crop, a summer crop of small berries, and a heavier fall crop. Total season-long yields, however, are similar to those of June-bearing strawberries. The fall crop depends on having a cooler summer for obtaining good fruit size and yields. During the first year of establishment, blossoms are removed so that only a fall crop is produced. Spotted wing drosophila is a newer pest in Kentucky that is of particular concern to any soft fruit that matures after July 1. Populations tend to be low enough prior to that time that they are not a serious concern for June-bearing varieties.

⇒ **Seascape** is a very large, hardy, heavy producing variety with firm fruit, good color and flavor when picked ripe. Resistant to Red Stele, Verticillium, Leaf Spot and Leaf Scorch.



Grafting: A Revolutionary Technique for Fruit Tree Cultivation

As gardening enthusiasts seek more productive and resilient fruit trees, grafting has emerged as a game-changer in horticulture. This age-old technique, which involves joining two plant parts to grow as one, has gained popularity for its ability to combine desirable traits from different plants, resulting in healthier and more fruitful trees.

The Science Behind Grafting

Grafting involves the careful joining of a scion (a young shoot or twig of a plant) and a rootstock (the lower part of the plant that includes the root system). The process begins with selecting compatible scion and rootstock species. The scion is typically chosen for its superior fruit quality, while the rootstock is selected for its disease resistance, hardiness, and adaptability to soil conditions.

The scion and rootstock are precisely cut to match their vascular tissues, which are then bound together with grafting tape. This ensures the alignment of the cambium layers, the part of the plant responsible for growth. With proper care and environmental conditions, the two parts fuse, allowing nutrients and water to flow seamlessly, fostering the growth of a new, productive tree.

Benefits of Grafting

Disease Resistance: Grafting allows the combination of a disease-resistant rootstock with a high-quality fruit-bearing scion, reducing the risk of pest and disease issues.

Improved Fruit Quality: Gardeners can graft scions from trees known for producing superior fruits, ensuring a higher yield of top-quality produce.

Faster Maturity: Grafted trees often mature faster than those grown from seeds, enabling earlier harvests.

Space Efficiency: Dwarf rootstocks can be used to control the size of the tree, making it possible to grow fruit trees in smaller gardens or even containers.

Genetic Diversity: Grafting preserves genetic diversity by allowing the propagation of varieties that may not reproduce true to type through seeds.

Popular Grafting Techniques

Several grafting methods exist, each suited to different plant species and conditions. Some commonly used techniques include:

Whip and Tongue Grafting: Ideal for young rootstocks and scions of similar size, this method involves making matching cuts on both parts and joining them tightly.

Cleft Grafting: Suitable for older trees, this technique involves splitting the rootstock and inserting one or more scions into the cleft.

Budding: A single bud from the scion is inserted into the rootstock, commonly used for citrus and stone fruits.

The Carter County Extension Office currently has apple and pear rootstock for sale.

- ⇒ *Apple—Malling 7A:* Size 60 to 70% of standard, it performs best on deep, well-drained soil and is somewhat drought tolerant. While most trees on M.7A are self-supporting, staking for the first four to five years is suggested. M.7A is prone to burr knots and suckers badly but is resistant to fire blight and crown rot.
- ⇒ *Pear—Old Home x Farmingdale 87:* semi-dwarf, fire blight-resistant, compatible with most pear varieties

Grafting has revolutionized fruit tree cultivation, offering gardeners a powerful tool to enhance the quality and productivity of their orchards. By understanding and mastering this technique, enthusiasts can enjoy a bountiful harvest of diverse and delectable fruits, all while ensuring the health and longevity of their trees. With the support of local extension offices, gardeners have access to high-quality rootstock and expert guidance, making the journey of grafting even more accessible and rewarding.



Apple & Pear Rootstock Order Form

Now is the time to order rootstock for spring grafting. (These are not ready to plant fruit trees, but rootstock that will require grafting. You will need to provide your own scion wood. See attached article for more information.) Grafting demo sessions will be held to help those who order learn to graft their own rootstock. Grafting tools will also be available for check-out. For more information on grafting visit <https://tinyurl.com/c69wpd55> and <https://youtu.be/kYgMEEPq9I4>.



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OFFICE USE ONLY: Date: _____
Amount Paid: _____
Check #: _____ Cash: _____
Received By: _____

Orders will be taken until February 1st or until sold out. Please pay with check or exact change. Make checks payable to: Carter County Ag Council

Rootstock should arrive the first week of March. All rootstock will need to be picked up at the Carter County Extension Office. Refunds will not be issued due to late pickup. Prices include tax.

Purchaser Information

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

QUANTITY	ITEM	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
	Pear (Pyrus Old Home x Farmingdale 87 3/16"-1/4") Rootstock	\$2.00	
	Apple (M7A 3/16") Rootstock	\$2.00	
		Total Due:	

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What to Bring to Your Accountant

From Southern Ag Today— Brian E. Mills, Kitty Charlton, & Kevin Kim; Mississippi State University Extension

Financial record keeping is an important aspect of farming. Tracking how your farm is doing over time can help you diagnose any potential issues that may arise. Having an accountant can help you understand how your farm is doing financially and prepare your tax returns. To save time and money, it is essential to provide your accountant with accurate records that reflect what actually happened on your farm. Mislabeling an income or expense can lead to incorrect categorization that will take your accountant more time to correct and/or could create a higher tax bill.

You know your farm better than your accountant, and the more detailed records you have on your farm, the better they are going to be able to help you prepare your financial documents. The following are some tips to make your records more organized for your accountant:

1. Keep business and personal expenses separate.
 - a. If the farm bank account is used for a personal expense, make a note of it.
 - b. In a sole proprietorship or general partnership, what is personal and business use might be unclear, so it is useful to track all income and expenses.
 - c. In a limited partnership, limited liability company (LLC), or corporation, you must use separate accounts for personal and business use.
2. Record information on each income and expense transaction.
 - a. Each income transaction should have the following: Date, Reference Number, Purchaser, Amount Deposited, and the Type of Income.
 - b. Each expense transaction should have the following: Date, Check/Reference Number, Payee, Amount Paid, and the Type of Expense.
 - c. Write legibly on checks and leave a note in the memo line as to the purpose of a purchase. Clear and detailed information on each check will help you and your accountant decide how to cat-

egorize checks for tax or management purposes.

3. Have the principal and interest payment figures separated for any fixed asset loans. This can be found on the last statement of the year or a 1099 from the entity you are paying.

4. For any contract laborer who is paid more than \$600 within the tax year or any employee for whom you pay payroll taxes, your accountant will need that person's social security number and address to file a 1099 or W-2 form for those workers on your behalf. Consult your accountant for information on paying the proper payroll taxes for any farm worker.

This list is just a starting point for what you need to think about before visiting your accountant. Again, you know your farm better than your accountant, so the more information you can bring to your accountant, the better they will be able to help you. This will save both your accountant's time and your money. It will also allow you to get a better understanding of how your farm is doing financially. In both good and tough years, it is important to know your full financial situation so that you can plan accordingly.



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Equal Opportunity Office, Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment,
University of Kentucky, Room S-105, Agriculture Science Building, North Lexington,
Kentucky 40546,

the UK Office of Institutional Equity and Equal Opportunity, 13 Main Building,
University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0032 or

US Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights,
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410.



Marketing Considerations:

- Utilize graded sales or other proven markets to market kids and lambs. The most desirable weights for kids is 45-80lbs. Lambs can be marketed either at lighter weights of 50-90lbs or can be marketed in the 100-140lb market range.
- Market prices for all sheep and goats should be strong through the colder months as supply is typically low.
- Always observe withdrawal times on de-wormers, antibiotics, and other drugs before sending to slaughter.

Winter Feeding Program:

- Provide mineral and fresh water at all times.
- Dry does/ewes-non-lactating females that are open or in early gestation should have access to medium quality hay.
- Late gestation does/ewes-Late gestation females need access to high quality hay and will likely need some concentrates as lambing/kidding approaches. Ideally, concentrate feeding rate should be determined by Body Condition Score (BCS) and hay analysis, but most late gestation does and ewes will require 0.5-1.5lbs per day of concentrate mix or shelled corn to meet their growing energy requirements.
- Lactating does/ewes-These females should be feed the highest quality hay along with concentrates (2lbs per day on average) to promote milk production. Females will naturally lose condition during lactation; however rapid weight loss will decrease milk production and kid/lamb performance.
- Nursing kids/lambs-Young kids and lambs should have access to creep feed by 7 days old.
- Weaned kids/lambs-Weanlings should have access to high quality hay and will need some supplemental concentrates to meet their growth potential.
- Non-breeding Bucks-Bucks currently not breeding females need access to medium quality forages.

Preparations for Winter Kidding/Lambing:

- Vaccinate pregnant does and ewes approximately 30 days prior to kidding or lambing with CD/T (Enterotoxemia Types C, D and Tetanus).
- Shear pregnant wool ewes.
- Trim feet and run through foot bath with 10% Zinc sulfate solution.
- De-worm pregnant ewes and does with a FAMACHA score of 3, 4 or 5.
- Keep pregnant females on pasture as long as possible for exercise.
- Check facilities, equipment and supplies to ensure everything is ready for kidding/lambing.

Want more monthly tips? Request a Master Grazer, Sheep & Goat, Beef, or Garden calendar from the Extension Office.



- ❖ Remove animals from very wet pastures to limit pugging and soil compaction.
- ❖ Feed best hay to animals with highest nutritional needs and supplement poor quality hay as indicated by forage testing.
- ❖ Feed hay in areas where mud is less of a problem.
- ❖ Feed hay in poor pastures to increase soil fertility and enhance organic matter
- ❖ Consider "bale grazing" –set out hay when the ground is dry or frozen. Use temporary fencing to allocate bales as needed.
- ❖ Prepare for pasture renovation by purchasing improved varieties, inoculant, etc. and getting equipment ready.

Improved hay feeding methods can stretch hay supplies. Bale feeders with solid panels next to the ground can reduce waste from 20 to 5% compared to feeders with just slats. Unrolling bales on low fertility pastures can help build soil fertility which helps to offset the additional waste that can occur.

Selecting an energizer. Energizers are the heart of an electric fencing systems and are NOT a component that you should try to "save" money on. A low-cost energizer often costs more in terms of future repairs and replacements. If electrical service is available, plug in energizers are considerably more powerful and offer the best value in terms of cost to power ratio. For remote areas, solar or battery powered energizers are viable alternatives for smaller acreages. Power comparisons of energizers should be done using "stored energy" which is measureable in joules.

Dung and urine are valuable commodities in grazing systems. Well managed grazing systems remove very few nutrients from the overall system. However, poor grazing management can result in overconcentration of nutrients in areas where animals congregate. Implementing rotation stocking improves dung and urine distribution within grazing systems and strengthens nutrient cycling.



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