



## Agriculture and Natural Resources Newsletter

**Washington County**  
Cooperative Extension Service  
245 Corporate Drive  
Springfield KY, 40069  
(859) 336-7741  
Fax: (859) 336-7445  
<http://ces.ca.uky.edu/washington>

### Notes from the Agent

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Mine was filled with family, friends, football, food, and preparing for lambing.

This time of year is the kick start to what is a very busy holiday season at home and at the Extension Office as we assist with collecting and distributing items for Holiday Assistance.



Stay up to date!  
Scan the QR code to like us on  
Facebook.

ON AIR

Listen for weekly tips on 100.9



The Washington County Extension Office will be closed for the Holidays from **December 25th - January 2nd** Wishing you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



# IMPORTANT DATES

## December

- 2nd: Horsemen Helping Horsemen, Verona
- 12th: UK Beef Management Webinar
- 12th: Sheep and Goat Meeting, Marion
- 14th: Managing Cattle in Confinement, Hardin County
- December 25th - 30th: Office is Closed

## January

- 1st: Office is Closed
- 9th: UK Beef Management Webinar
- 18th & 25th: Good Idea Shop Talks, Webinar
- 22nd: Master Cattlemen, Nelson County

# WEBINARS

### Good Idea Shop Talks

A free meet-up series for row crop and livestock producers to exchange ideas for improving on-farm soil and water resources, while protecting profitability.

**January 18th, January 25th, and  
February 1st**

11:30am CT / 12:30pm ET.

**LEARN MORE AND REGISTER:**



### UK Beef Management Webinar Series

Registration is necessary, 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. 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

# MAKE PRICE RISK MANAGEMENT A PRIORITY IN 2024

By: James Mitchell  
University of Arkansas

A few weeks ago, [Kenny](#) wrote about the downward trend in cattle prices that started in mid-September. This downward trend is driven by normal seasonal patterns in cattle markets and bearish news from a few USDA reports. These past few months are why we use price risk management even during times of high cattle prices. There are still market fluctuations and seasonal patterns to manage.

There are several tools available to producers to manage price risk. Each of these products has its own pros and cons. Hedging strategies with futures contracts is a risk management concept that most people are familiar with. Forward contracting is another strategy that is well-known. Options on futures contracts are another strategy, albeit more complicated, if you need to familiarize yourself with the terminology. Livestock Risk Protection (LRP) is a subsidized insurance product that is becoming more popular, especially among smaller operations and cow-calf producers.

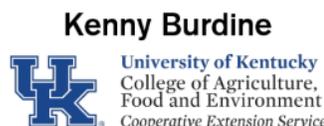
Another approach to risk management is to do nothing and ride the market. There are plenty of people who do this. The wins from the do-nothing approach are substantial. The losses are also a lot more painful. As we have seen in the last couple of years, this passive approach to price risk is no longer a viable option. Formulating a price risk management plan should be at the top of your priority list in 2024.

I have two general points of advice for people formulating their price risk management strategy, perhaps for the first time. First, start slow and keep it simple. If you need to become more familiar with the abovementioned risk management tools, start with a basic program incorporating one product. For those interested in LRP, [Kenny](#) and [Josh](#) have a few recordings from last year that help understand the basics. Second, develop your own risk management strategy. Do not adopt a risk management strategy that someone else uses, e.g., a friend or neighbor. How much risk you want to take off the table should depend on your risk tolerance.

**Enjoy this article? Consider subscribing to the Cattle Market Weekly Newsletter.**

## Cattle Market Notes Weekly

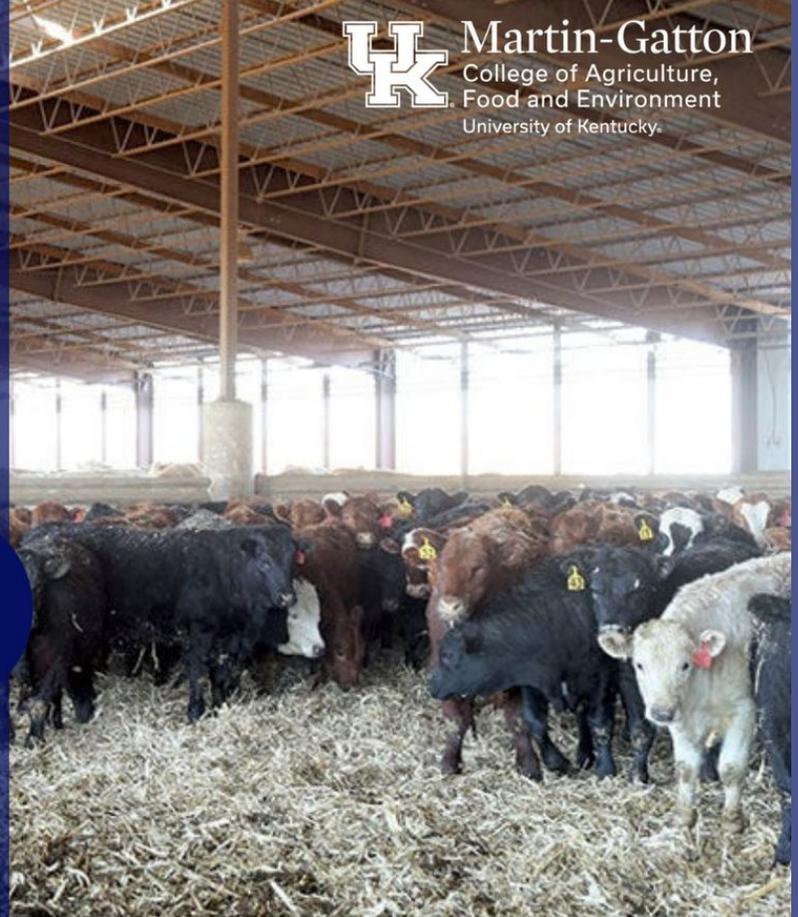
Scan the QR code to get started!



# MANAGING CATTLE IN CONFINEMENT CONFERENCE

**DECEMBER 14, 2023  
HARDIN COUNTY  
EXTENSION OFFICE**

**2:30 ET - 8:30ET**



For any questions email  
[maggie.ginn@uky.edu](mailto:maggie.ginn@uky.edu)

## TOPICS

- Moving to Confinement: Challenges & Opportunities
- Managing Nutrient Resources
- Confinement Facility Options and Considerations
- Economic Considerations for Confinement Facilities
- Producer Panel

## REGISTER NOW:

- Register via the QR code
- Early registration until December 6. \$15
- Late registration \$20
- Registration includes Dinner

# TRI-COUNTY MASTER CATTLEMEN

**JAN  
22**

NELSON COUNTY  
*Reproduction / Record-keeping  
Les Anderson*

**FEB  
05**

WASHINGTON COUNTY  
*Nutrition  
Katie VanValin*

**FEB  
19**

MARION COUNTY  
*Marketing  
Kevin Laurent*

**MAR  
04**

MARION COUNTY  
*Winter Feeding  
Josh Jackson & Morgan Hayes*

**MAR  
25**

WASHINGTON COUNTY  
*Health  
Michelle Arnold*

**APR  
01**

NELSON COUNTY  
*Genetics  
Darrh Bullock*

**All programs will take place from 6:00 - 9:00 PM.**

**There is a \$100 registration fee that covers meals and materials you will receive.**

**You must be able to attend all 6 programs to receive your certification. If for some reason you can not attend a session please let us know in advance to make arrangements.**

**Please contact your Extension Office to register between now and January 8th:**

**Washington County:**  
**(859)336-7741**

**Nelson County:**  
**(502)348-9204**

**Marion County:**  
**(270)692-2421**





# THE 2023-2024 WINTER OUTLOOK FOR KENTUCKY

Derrick Snyder – National Weather  
Service, Paducah, KY



As the leaves change colors and fall to the ground, crops are harvested, and tendrils of frost form on plants, conversation often turns to what the coming winter will bring. As we have seen, winter in Kentucky can bring a bit of everything, from ice and snow, to flooding, to bitter cold - even severe weather. Given how variable the weather during the winter can be, is it possible to predict what will happen? Many of us have heard homespun wisdom about ways to predict what an upcoming winter will bring. Some of the more popular ones include how dark the hair of a woolly worm is in the fall, the shape of the seed inside of a persimmon, and counting the number of morning fogs in August. Unfortunately, these tales are not necessarily based in truth. The National Weather Service has a division called the Climate Prediction Center (CPC). The climatologists use historical data and pattern recognition, along with latest trends and observations, to predict a seasonal outlook. This past month, CPC just issued the outlook for the upcoming 2023/2024 Winter Season. So how does it shake out?

The winter outlook compiled by CPC covers the months of December, January, and February. It is not possible to give a day by day forecast of what will happen, but it is possible to forecast whether a region will see a greater chance of above-, below-, or near-normal temperatures and precipitation (rain and melted snow and ice). If there is not a strong signal either way, the outlook will say that a region will have an equal chance of seeing above-, below-, or near-normal temperatures and precipitation. It is important to remember that these outlooks cover a three-month period. Periods of cold weather can occur when above-normal temperatures are favored, and the opposite can happen when below-normal temperatures are favored. The same rule also applies for precipitation.

This year, the United States is entering into a strong El Niño pattern. During El Niño, trade winds weaken in the Pacific Ocean. Warm water is pushed back east, toward the west coast of the Americas.

El Niño means Little Boy in Spanish. South American fishermen first noticed periods of unusually warm water in the Pacific Ocean in the 1600s. The full name they used was El Niño de Navidad, because El Niño typically peaks around December.

El Niño can affect our weather significantly. The warmer waters cause the Pacific jet stream to move south of its neutral position. With this shift, areas in the northern U.S. and Canada are dryer and warmer than usual. But in the U.S. Gulf Coast and Southeast, these periods are wetter than usual and have increased flooding.

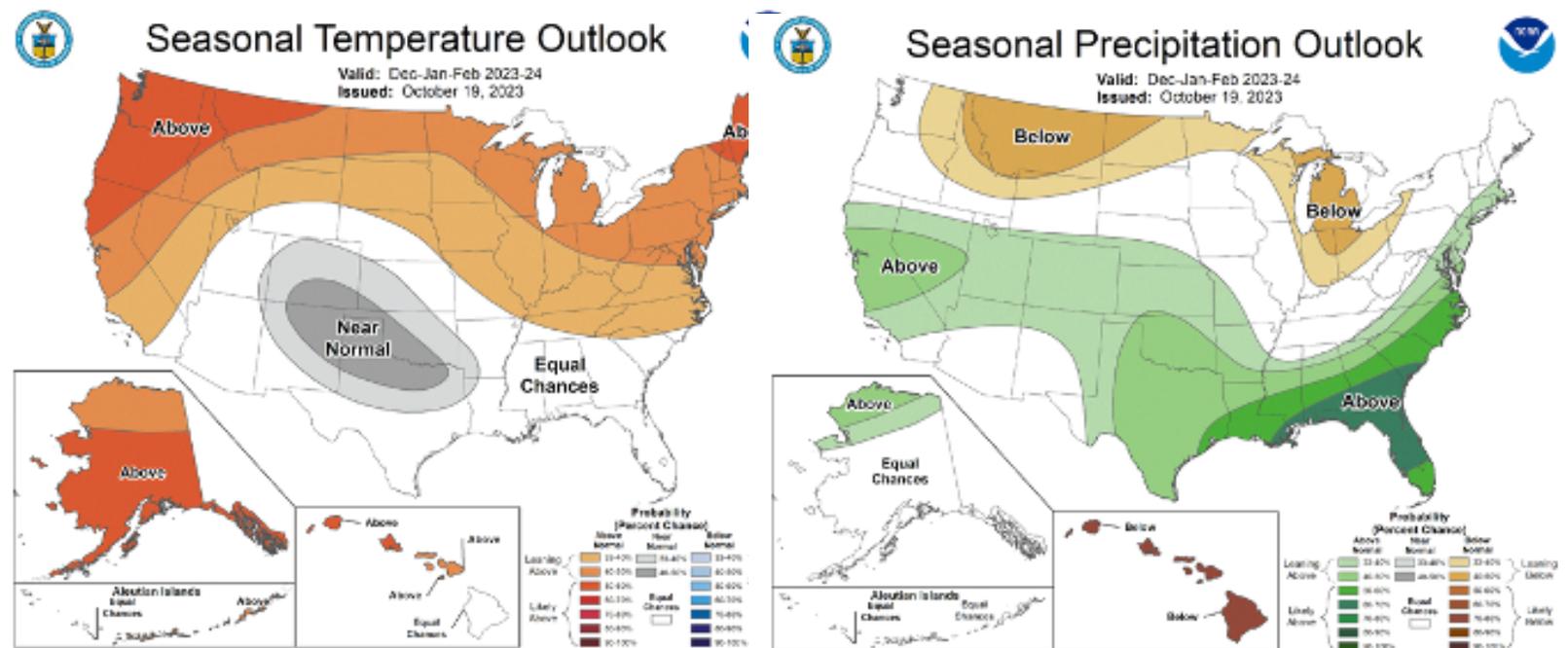


# THE 2023-2024 WINTER OUTLOOK FOR KENTUCKY



Derrick Snyder – National Weather Service, Paducah, KY

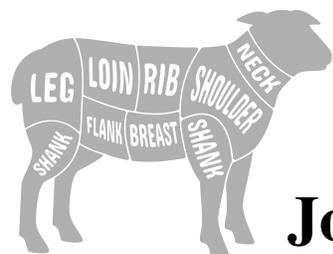
In Kentucky, the outlook for this winter slightly favors above-normal temperatures across the entire state. For precipitation, the great majority of the state has an equal chance of seeing above-, below-, or near-normal precipitation. However, across far northern Kentucky, the outlook does slightly favor below-normal precipitation amounts. How will this end up playing out over the winter? – We shall have to wait and see!



## CENTRAL KENTUCKY SHEEP AND GOAT MEETING

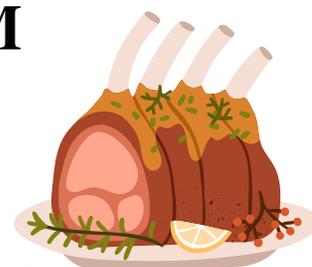
Are you interested in learning to process lamb at home?

This month there will be a live demonstration on processing a lamb into cuts!



Join us on December 12th at 6:30 PM

Marion County Extension Office  
416 Fairgrounds Rd, Lebanon, KY 40033



# APPLE PIE SMOOTHIE

## Ingredients

- 2 cored and sliced apples (or 1 cup unsweetened applesauce)
- 1 medium banana (fresh or frozen)
- 1/4 cup rolled oats
- 1 1/2 cups skim milk
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 3-4 ice cubes
- 1 teaspoon honey (optional)

## Directions:

1. Put everything in the blender and blend until smooth.
2. Enjoy!



**Nutrition Facts Per Serving:** 250 calories; 1.5g total fat; 0g saturated fat; 0g trans fat; 5mg cholesterol; 80mg sodium; 56g carbohydrate; 8g fiber; 36g total sugars; 0g added sugar; 9g protein; 10% daily value of Vitamin D; 20% Daily Value of calcium; 6% Daily Value of iron; 15% Daily Value of potassium.

## AT THE EXTENSION OFFICE

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Washington County  
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taylor.graves@uky.edu

*Taylor Graves*



## WREATH MAKING

December 13th

9 AM - 4 PM

Fresh Greenery and Premade Bows

\$20