

University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

Extension Notes

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Agriculture & Natural Resources

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Russell County Extension Office

Corn Planting Tips

Source: Chad Lee, Director of the UK Grain and Forage Center of Excellence

Corn planting season is upon us. Traditional planting dates are April 1 through May 1 in Western Kentucky and April 15 to May 15 in Central and Eastern Kentucky. Proper planting is important to minimize risks to the crop later in the growing season. Here are some tips and important considerations as you ready your planters.

First, you should note that the previous six growing seasons have been among the wettest of the past 30 years. So far, it has been considerably wet again this year across much of the state. Current weather conditions and a comparison of previous growing seasons could change the way you approach this planting season.

Usually, we determine seeding rates based on how likely it is that the soil will have adequate moisture when pollination and seed fill occurs. UK research has shown that when our corn crop has adequate water, higher populations increase yields. Irrigated fields can handle much higher populations, up to 42,000 seeds per acre in 30-inch rows. When the crop lacks water, higher populations hurt yields. Your soil depth should also factor into your seeding rate. Deep soils can handle higher populations of 32,000 to 36,000 seeds per acre. You should use lower seeding rates on shallower soils. If you plant on heavily eroded hillsides, your rate should be less than 26,000 seeds per acre.

Corn should be planted at a uniform depth, typically between 1.5 to 2 inches deep. Uniform planting depth allows for even emergence. Shallow planted corn runs a higher risk for late-season lodging, developing a potassium deficiency and slower development. To that end, make sure your planter's row closers are fully operational, because if they are not, you could be inadvertently planting shallower than you intended.

In Kentucky in 2019, earlier planted corn did better than corn that was planted late. This was due to the weather turning dry in July and August. Corn that was already into seed fill during the dry period suffered very little from the weather. Ideally, we say wait for dry weather and the proper temperature to plant corn, but we also realize that we would have planted very little corn in 2019 had we waited for ideal weather conditions. Realize if you are planting into wet soils or "mudding in" corn, it increases your risk for sidewall compaction. Compaction restricts root growth and hurts your yields far more than a later planting date. However, if soils continue to be wet throughout much of the spring, consider a spiked-tooth closing wheel and back off the down pressure.

If we are going to plant in riskier conditions, it's important that we try to reduce our risks up front and be prepared to scout fields for problems as the season progresses. Take the time to make sure your planting equipment and any of its sensors are functioning properly and that you are getting the proper planting depth, closed rows and correct seed placement in each field. Double checking your work takes time, but it could help you avoid potential problems later. Producers who pay attention to details are more likely to end up with better stands.

More information on corn planting is available at the Russell County office of the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service.

Meetings and Announcements

ALL Extension meetings and programs are cancelled until further notice.

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NOTICE: In an effort to keep our clients and our staff healthy during the coronavirus outbreak, the Russell County Extension Office is closed to public foot traffic by mandate from the University of Kentucky, and abiding by county government protocols. At this time, agents and staff are still available to answer questions related to Agriculture, Family and Consumer Sciences, and 4-H. Contact the office by phone at 270-866-4477, through email at russell.ext@uky.edu or through social media pages on Facebook.

The Russell County Extension Office is still offering Free soil testing for Russell County residents/producers at the Russell County Extension Office through March 31st, unless funds are depleted. Limit 5 samples per household/operation. The office is also accepting plant samples for disease diagnosis. *Please leave soil or plant samples in the metal trash can on the porch of the office with your name and phone number for office staff to contact for crop/plant information.

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WADE'S MARTIAL ARTS - SPOTLIGHT STUDENTThe Spotlight Student at Wade's Martial Arts, in Russell Springs, is Maesyn Cissell. Maesyn is nine years old, and is ranked first green. She is the daughter of Amy Smith and Jeremy Cissell. Her favorite thing about class is testing, and she enjoys swimming, reading, and running.



Kentucky Department of Agriculture
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KENTUCKY LIVESTOCK AND GRAIN MARKET REPORT



KENTUCKY DAILY GRAIN PRICES - bids for next day	WEEKLY FEED INGREDIENT PRICE - bids for next day
Corn #2 Yellow - Louisville (3.68-3.78); Pennyrile (3.70-3.80)	Wholesale prices, \$ per ton - Owensboro Grain KY
Soybeans #1 Y - Louisville (\$7.83); Pennyrile (\$7.97-8.12)	Soybean Meal 48% sol302.30
Wheat #2 SRW - Louisville NA) Pennyrile (\$4.78-5.28)	Soybean Hulls130.00

Russell County Stockyards - March 18, 2020 *Cattle weighed at time of sale.* Cattle Receipts: 166 Last Week: 1009 • Last Year:0

FEEDER CATTLE	1 595 595 120.00 120.00
STEERS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)	1 615 615 116.00 116.00
Head Wt Range Avg Wt Price Range Avg Price	1 670 670 114.00 114.00
1 435 435 130.00 130.00	1 715 715 105.00 105.00
6 519-545 523 129.00-137.00 130.39	1 800 800 83.00 83.00
10 611-640 628 123.50-127.00 124.96	1 870 870 80.00 80.00
	1 920 920 91.00 91.00
STEERS - Medium and Large 2-3 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)	BULLS - Medium and Large 2-3 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)
Head Wt Range Avg Wt Price Range Avg Price	Head Wt Range Avg Wt Price Range Avg Price
1 425 425 120.00 120.00	1 340 340 116.00 116.00
	2 432 432 128.00 128.00
HEIFERS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)	1 665 665 71.00 71.00
Head Wt Range Avg Wt Price Range Avg Price	COWS - Breaker 75-80% (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)
2 210-225 218 111.00-120.00 115.34	Head Wt Range Avg Wt Price Range Avg Price
1 295 295 127.50 127.50	Dressing
2 315 315 120.00 120.00	9 955-1450 1187 53.00-64.00 59.91 Average
7 380-391 388 125.00-131.00 129.32	14 990-1605 1394 66.00-82.00 72.77 High
5 405-440 425 115.00-128.00 121.28	COWS - Boner 80-85% (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)
14 461-498 473 115.00-125.00 .31	Head Wt Range Avg Wt Price Range Avg Price
4 500-505 504 93.00-119.00 112.05	Dressing
1 550 550 107.00 107.00	11 900-1505 1139 43.50-57.00 49.31 Average
2 605-635 620 81.00-110.00 95.15	COWS - Lean 85-90% (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)
1 695 695 89.00 89.00	Head Wt Range Avg Wt Price Range Avg Price
1 800 800 88.00 88.00	Dressing
HEIFERS - Medium and Large 2-3 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)	5 760-1010 911 35.50-45.00 41.12 Average
Head Wt Range Avg Wt Price Range Avg Price	1 1030 1030 59.50 59.50 High
1 425 425 101.00 101.00	1 790 790 30.00 30.00 Low
HEIFERS - Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)	BULLS - 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)
Head Wt Range Avg Wt Price Range Avg Price	Head Wt Range Avg Wt Price Range Avg Price
1 585 585 120.00 120.00	Dressing
	1 1160 1160 78.00 78.00 Average
BULLS - Medium and Large 1-2 (Per Cwt / Actual Wt)	8 925-1835 1298 91.00-102.00 95.81 High
Head Wt Range Avg Wt Price Range Avg Price	Please Note:
1 225 225 127.50 127.50	The above USDA LPGMN price report is reflective of the majority of classes and grades of livestock offered for sale. There may be instances where some sales do not fit within reporting guidelines and therefore will not be included in the report. Prices are reported on an FOB basis, unless otherwise noted.
3 312-335 320 142.50-145.00 144.13	
2 360-390 375 124.00-128.00 126.08	
1 405 405 131.00 131.00	
5 457-475 462 121.50-136.00 129.86	
5 500-545 522 120.00-137.00 126.46	

Source: USDA-Kentucky Dept of Ag Market News, Louisville, KY • Mike Bell, Market Reporter, 502-782-4139
24 Hour Toll Free Market News Report 1-800-327-6568 • www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/SV_LS168.txt
This report reflects prices of the majority of cattle with a USDA grade, weight and sex on this sale date. This report does not represent all animals at the sale on that date.

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