

Weather Record						
Date	1-19	1-20	1-21	1-22	1-23	1-24
High	51.5	41	44	42	39.4	43.5
Low	29.9	28.9	35.8	26.2	18.9	36.3
Prec	0	0	0.18	0	0	0.08

Reporting period for each day runs from midnight to midnight. Statistics from Kentucky Mesonet's Bengal Station.

ATTENTION FARMERS!

PPP funds available for farmers

A new act recently passed is helping out farmers, and those in the local area are urged to apply.

The Economic Aid Act reauthorized the Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Program through March 31 and made several modifications beneficial to farmers.

PPP provides forgivable loans to small businesses to pay employees to keep them on the payroll. The SBA opened an application round with new rules on Jan. 15 after Congress passed a COVID-19 relief package in December.

"I would like to urge all farmers to apply for this because every farmer that files for schedule F qualifies for this money," Green County Extension Agent Ricky Arnett said.

"This will help farmers and bring money into our county," he said. "Talk to your bank lender or tax preparer."

This act authorizes second draw PPP loans.

In explanation, Arnett says eligible expenses paid with PPP loans are deductible for tax purposes. And Economic Injury Disaster Loan advance grants are not taxable.

Commissioner of Agriculture Ryan Quarles also sent out a release urging participation.

"The changes made to the already successful Paycheck Protection Program will enable more Kentucky farm families to participate in this critical COVID-19 relief program," Commissioner Quarles said. "It's much better for both workers and employers to keep people on the payroll than throwing our most vulnerable people into our state's disastrous unemployment system. I hope every Kentucky farm and agribusiness will take a serious look at the changes to this program and take action to keep employees on the payroll."

This is a new rule for farmers only. The calculation of PPP loans is now based on gross income instead of net farm income. (Gross income comes from Line 9 of Schedule F. The rule applies to sole proprietors and eligible self-employed farmers who report on Schedule F and were in business as of February 15, 2020.)

This means farmers who did not qualify before may now qualify.

It also means farmers who did not qualify for the maximum amount may request an increase in the original PPP loan if the loan has not been forgiven.

For those without employees, the maximum is now \$20,833. Those with employees may add the higher of 2019 or 2020's monthly payroll multiplied by 2.5.

According to an analysis by the American Farm Bureau, the latest package:

- Allocated an additional \$284 billion in

funding for a second round of PPP loans;

- Clarified that allowable expenses that had been paid for with forgiven PPP loans may be counted as a business deduction for income tax purposes without limitation;

- Cut in half the qualifying reduction in gross revenue from 50 percent to 25 percent;

- Expanded eligible expenses to include personal protective equipment for workers and adaptive costs in addition to previous eligible expenses of payroll, mortgage interest, rent, and utilities; and

- Changed the metrics for loans from net farm income to gross income for farmers who file taxes as sole proprietors.

The Paycheck Protection Program is administered by the U.S. Small Business Administration and approved lenders. To locate an eligible PPP lender, visit sba.gov/paycheckprotection/find.

Gov. announces \$38 million to help Kentuckians with utility bills

Monday, Gov. Andy Beshear announced up to \$38 million is available to local governments to help Kentuckians with overdue utility bills in their jurisdiction. Each unit of local government may request up to \$200,000 for assistance in their communities.

"Even with our victory over COVID-19 coming into sight, times are still tough for our families," said Gov. Beshear. "We are grateful to be able to provide these funds, because they will ensure many Kentuckians won't have to make the impossible choice between feeding their family and keeping the lights on."

The Department for Local Government (DLG) will administer the funding from the Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus Response (CDBG-CV) program established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

"We want to get this assistance out the door as quickly as

possible, because protecting Kentuckians is our number one priority," said DLG Commissioner Dennis Keene. "We encourage local governments to submit applications as quickly as possible."

To apply, local governments must submit an application to DLG. If approved, local governments must then partner with a community action agency to assist with funding administration. To simplify the process and fulfill that need, DLG has partnered with Kentucky's 15 Area Development Districts (ADD) to assist units of local government, local nonprofit community service providers and eligible Kentuckians with their applications and administering funds.

Households are eligible for up to \$250 per month for six consecutive months if:

They live in a city or county approved for funding;

See Funds, page 4B

Governor Beshear gives Covid-19 update Monday, will give vaccine update Thursday

On Monday, Gov. Andy Beshear announced Kentucky's COVID-19 positivity rate has fallen below 10% for the first time since Dec. 31. Monday's new case report was also the lowest for a Monday since Jan. 4.

"Our cases are way too high, but I think when you look at this it shows how important the steps we took are and how important the ability to be able to take steps is when you are facing exponential growth in cases," said Gov. Beshear. "We believe that this decline is real, not just a result

of maybe fewer tests happening, because we know the positivity rate is also going down."

Case Information

As of 4 p.m. Monday, Jan. 25:

Positivity rate: 9.93%

Total deaths: 3,460

Currently hospitalized: 1,539

Currently in ICU: 374

Currently on ventilator: 203

Vaccine Update

Gov. Beshear said Kentucky is working to become the fastest state to vaccinate school staff so that all schools can

safely reopen for in-person classes.

The Governor announced that Kentucky has administered 88% of all initial vaccine doses sent to the state's vaccination program. [1]

"Just last week, we administered the most doses we ever have, including second doses – 93,499 – and vaccinated the most people we ever have with initial doses – 82,511 people," said Gov. Beshear. "The problem here is supply, supply, supply. We can vaccinate 250,000 Kentuckians per week, and we're still build-

ing up our capabilities, but we're only getting 56,000 new doses per week from the federal government.

This Thursday, the Governor will provide an update on how Kentuckians in Phase 1A, 1B and 1C can sign up for an appointment at new regional Kroger vaccination centers as well as other partner locations.

GRILLED CHICKEN SALAD

Tender Strips of Grilled or Fried Chicken piled high a bed of lettuce with cucumbers, tomatoes, eggs, bacon, cheese and croutons



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2017 Ford F-250 Lariat
82,000 miles, 6.7 Diesel, 4x4
\$42,900

2017 Yukon XL
67,000 miles, 4x4, leather, loaded, heated and cooled seats, 3rd row seating, sunroof, new tires.
\$28,900

2012 GMC 1500
100,297 miles, 5.3 V8, 4x4, Runs and Lot Drives
\$11,900

2018 Ford Explorer
59,000 miles, 4x4, leather/loaded, theft recovery
\$28,900

2015 Ford Escape
35,000 miles, 4x4, 1.6 EcoBoost, navigation and all power options, READY TO GO
\$10,900

2014 Dodge Ram 2500 Longhorn
133,000 miles, 6.7 diesel, mega cab, deleted and tuned, leather/loaded, heated/cooled seats, heated steering wheel, navigation, all power options, CLEAN TITLE
\$29,900

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