

NIKKI'S NEWSLETTER

Marshall County's Agriculture & Natural Resources Update



Cooperative Extension
University of Kentucky
Marshall County
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Benton, KY 42025
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extension.ca.uky.edu

As summer comes to an end, so does the building renovation project. As of today (8/28), we are hoping to start moving stuff to the new building in the next couple of weeks (fingers crossed.) I appreciate everyone's patience this summer and during this transition. Co-managing a construction project of that magnitude is more time consuming than any of us imagined. We are grateful for the County District Board Members (the fiscal decision makers) who were taking phone calls, making decisions and even running errands daily. We are also thankful for the volunteers who helped us pack and will be thankful for everyone's patience as we unpack and get settled in.

This fall, I plan to have normal program offerings. These programs and activities are already in the works: Lunch Break Gardening Monthly Lessons (page 7), Adult Farmer Beef Classes, Bull Evaluation Program with a live auction (page 6), Master Gardener State Conference Trip, Family Day at Mike Miller Park (Master Gardener's Booth), Meat Cutting Demo (page 4), a lesson at Ag. Safety Day, "Growing Your Farm Business" Workshop (page 5), Master Gardener's Library Series's (fall lesson is on rose propagation) and more to come! Stay tuned or call the office for more details on these upcoming programs!

Other timely concerns/news:

-The **CAIP (County Agriculture Investment Program)** application period is open September 1st-30th. Contact the Conservation District for application instructions.

-**Fall armyworm** numbers were on the rise last month. We need to treat if numbers exceed a threshold of 2 to 4 larvae per square foot on average.

-I have been getting a lot of questions about the "creepy little white insects floating through the air". These are **Woolly Aphids**. Follow the QR code on the left for more information on these annoying little guys.

-Another "fun" topic, **drought** is becoming more concerning everyday we miss a rain. I am concerned about all crops but especially our grain crops that were later planted and received little to no water during grain filling stages. Snap this QR code for the UK meteorologist's most recent weather update.



Other opportunities to learn:

From the Woods Today Webinar Series-

Live on Wednesdays at 10 am www.FromTheWoodsToday.com

Heart of America Grazing Conference October 16th in Elizabethtown

<https://2024HeartofAmerica.eventbrite.com>

Online BQCA (Beef Quality and Care Assurance) is **FREE** online in the month of September! Follow the QR code to see more details.



What else have I been up to? Due to my work with the December 2021 tornado, I have been nominated to serve on a committee entitled "Disasters Don't Stand a Chance." This committee is designed to assist county agents when natural disasters strike. I look forward to using my experience to help other communities. Also, I have been serving on the Forestry & Natural Resources Department Chair Search Committee at UK. I am tasked with helping find a suitable candidate that will support not only the Forestry Department but also Extension and the county we serve.

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Marshall County ANR Agent



Return of the Fall Armyworm

Jonathon Larson, UK Entomologist

8/20/24

In 2021, Kentucky was one of many states that were impacted by a historic outbreak of fall armyworms. That year marked perhaps the worst year for the pest since the 1970s and has inspired fear and dread about these hungry, hungry caterpillars rearing their head again. In the past week, reports from western and central Kentucky have indicated that some folks are seeing fall armyworms in turfgrass areas. It doesn't seem to be at the same levels we experienced in 2021 but it doesn't hurt to review how this pest works and what can be done about it.

Fall Armyworm & Kentucky

Fall armyworms do not overwinter in this state. They are a tropical species, and they typically overwinter in southern Florida and southern Texas. These spots stay warm enough for them to persist and then mate to start the generations that will migrate northward. They usually move from these toasty states into states like Mississippi and Alabama in April and May, arriving next in Tennessee by May or June. Typically, they start to appear in Kentucky by June.

In the Bluegrass State, fall armyworms are usually associated with issues in pastures and crops. In this state and others, they will cross over into the home landscape to feed on turf in lawns. Initially when they feed, the tips of the blades of grass will have windowpane-like damage. As the caterpillars grow, they will progress into consuming whole blades of grass. The term "armyworm" also comes from the fact that these pests move in a group across the grass, creating a distinct line of damage opposed to undamaged grass. Newly planted sod is more susceptible to being killed by these pests than established turf areas.

What should you do now?

If you live near pastures or agricultural production fields that have been affected by fall armyworm damage, it might be a good idea to check your lawn for initial signs of damage. Additionally, if you noticed large numbers of egg masses, it would behoove you to check in with your lawn. Infested stands of turf will appear thinned out, often with exposed crowns or soil where caterpillars have completely consumed the plant.

Some folks won't have to worry. If you have a yard that was treated with Acelepryn or Scott's GrubEx in the spring/early summer for grub control, you likely won't get fall armyworms. These systemic products last through the whole summer and are effective against both beetle grubs and moth caterpillars.

If you haven't had your yard treated, though, and are seeing a concerning amount of damage, you can minimize fall armyworms and their feeding with pyrethroid products like bifenthrin, cyhalothrin, and others. Bt and spinosad, which are organic options, will work when caterpillars are smaller and might be effective if another generation of armyworms develops here.

No insecticide will make grass green again though! If you have seen part of your lawn destroyed, you can salvage what is left, but prepare to reseed or re-sod in the near future.



Figure 1: Fall armyworm caterpillars can feed on many plants and can be found in agricultural settings in addition to home landscapes.

(Photo: Russ Ottens, U. of Georgia, Bugwood.org)

Figure 2: Fall armyworm egg masses are fuzzy in appearance, often with hundreds of eggs underneath the fuzz. They may lay them on nearly any surface.

(Photo: Richard Sprenkel, University of Florida, Bugwood.org)

Figure 3: Representative damage to grass plants; note the thin appearance of the grass and visible soil underneath.

(Photo: Chazz Hesselein, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Bugwood.org)

2024 Farmland Values

By Steve Isaacs | Extension Professor

According to USDA estimates from their annual Land Values Summary, Kentucky's average Farm Real Estate Values increased 7.5% in 2024 to \$5,300/acre, up from \$4,930 in 2023. Figure 1 (page 7) is a comparison of Kentucky land values with the national trend since 2000. Kentucky's values trend generally with national values, exceeding the national average while trailing most Midwestern states. Kentucky's average Cropland Value increased from \$5,720/ac to \$6,220/ac (8.7%) while Kentucky's Pastureland Value was up 5.6% from \$3,570 to \$3,770/ac.

Each August the USDA releases the results of their annual survey of farmland values. The survey includes data from approximately 9,000 tracts of land of about one square mile each across the continental United States. The survey takes place in early June and reports the separate values of cropland and pastureland, and the value of all land and buildings to arrive at an average "farm real estate value." The average farm real estate value is the widely reported farmland value. This year the national average is \$4,170/acre, an increase of 5.0% from 2023. This is less than the 7.4% increase reported in 2023. State level values are also reported. The complete 2024 Land Values Summary is available from the National Agricultural Statistics Service of USDA.

Nationally, average cropland values increased 4.7% to \$5,570/ac from \$5,320 a year earlier. US pastureland value increased 5.2% to \$1,830/ac. These are the June survey averages. They do not represent the per acre prices for specific tracts nor are they an average of sale values. The USDA averages are a broad indicator of changes in land values.

Land values are determined by a number of factors including productivity, local demand, and other quality or location attributes. Simply put, land prices are set locally. Development pressure, for example, can cause land value increases far above agricultural values. Another widely observed demand factor influencing farmland values in Kentucky is the purchase of land (often seen only on an internet site) by out-of-state buyers who see Kentucky farmland as a bargain compared to high real estate price states in, for instance, California, Illinois, or New Jersey.

Land value changes are widely reported in the farm literature, usually in the format of Figure 2 (page7) without an inflation adjustment. This graphic captures data between 1970 when farm real estate was valued at \$196/acre and 2024 with its \$4,170/ac in nominal dollars (actual observed values). Figure 2 includes inflation adjusted values as well. The 1970 inflation adjusted value (also called real value) was \$1,406/ac in today's dollars. In real terms, land values peaked at \$2,803/ac in 1981 prior to the ag financial crisis of the 80s. Real values did not reach that level again until 2006.

In nominal terms land values have increased more than 2,000% in the last 55 years (\$196/ac to \$4,170/ac). In real (inflation adjusted terms) land values have increased 181% over the same period (\$1,486 to \$4,170/ac) even when we consider the twenty-five years it took to recover from the crisis years of the 80s. Land values have beat inflation over this period by an average of 2.1%/yr with some pretty impressive swings. When land prices jumped 21.3% in 2005, that was 19.2% above inflation. However, an 11.0% decline in land values in 1985, coupled with a 4.4% inflation rate saw real land prices fall by 15.4%. Land value increases failed to exceed overall inflation in sixteen of those fifty-five years with most of those occurring during the farm crisis of the 1980s when land values were falling at the same time inflation was high.

The year-to-year percentage changes in nominal (observed) values are shown in Figures 3 (back page). Farmland values are obviously affected by swings in commodity prices and farm profitability. The postwar period of the 50s, 60s, and 70s led to a notion that land values would always increase. They 80s laid waste to that notion. Land values have increased over the long run, but not without some hiccups.

Land, as an investment, shows a modest 2.1% average growth rate after accounting for inflation. However, land is a productive asset that does not depreciate and generates income in production or rent. Real estate represents 84% of the farm sector balance sheet assets, so changes in land values are important. Land is an investment with changes in value often determined by local conditions and farm profitability. It is a tangible asset, and many of us like to walk on our investments.

*Tables can be viewed on pages 7 and 8.



General 4

 Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

CALL 270-247-2334
TO REGISTER!

NEW DATE!

NEW RETAIL CUTS FROM THE BEEF RIBEYE

MEAT CUTTING DEMONSTRATION

WITH

DR. GREGG RENTFROW,

UK MEAT SCIENCE SPECIALIST

SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

5:30PM

GRAVES COUNTY
EXTENSION OFFICE





GROWING YOUR FARM AND FOOD BUSINESS WORKSHOP IN LIVINGSTON COUNTY

**Unlock new opportunities for your agribusiness with
KCARD staff and partners at our comprehensive
workshops on funding, business planning, and more!**

OCTOBER 23RD

9:30 AM - 4 PM

**GRAND RIVERS
COMMUNITY CENTER**

**155 W CUMBERLAND AVE
GRAND RIVERS, KY 42045**



<https://tinyurl.com/livingston-gyffb>

**REGISTRATION IS \$20.
REGISTER IN THE LINK OR BY
CALLING US AT (859) 550-3972!**



**Kentucky Center for Agriculture
and Rural Development**



Martin-Gatton

College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

Cooperative Extension
Marshall County

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Benton, KY 42025
(270) 527-3285



"(BVAP) really assisted
with understanding real
world usage of EPD'S"
-past participant

"very educational. I
really enjoyed getting to
see things in action at
the mock auction"
-past participant

Bull Value Assessment Program

October 14th & 22nd
6:00PM

Free meal both nights!

**@ The New Marshall County
Extension Office**

RSVP Required
Call 270-527-3285

This two night
program is
designed to help
producers make future
bull buying decisions.

This "mock" bull buying
experience allows producers to
fine tune their bull evaluating,
selecting and purchasing skills at a
live, no risk, auction simulation!



Lunch Break Gardening Series

UK Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment



October 2nd
Monstera

Join Miss Rinna Cooper, Marshall Master Gardener, as she shares how to propagate and grow healthy monstera houseplants!

Join us during your lunch break for a gardening workshop!

\$12
Includes lunch from a local restaurant

1st Wednesday Monthly
12:15-12:45pm
at the Marshall County Extension Office



RSVP by Sept. 27th
Call 270-527-3285

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Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

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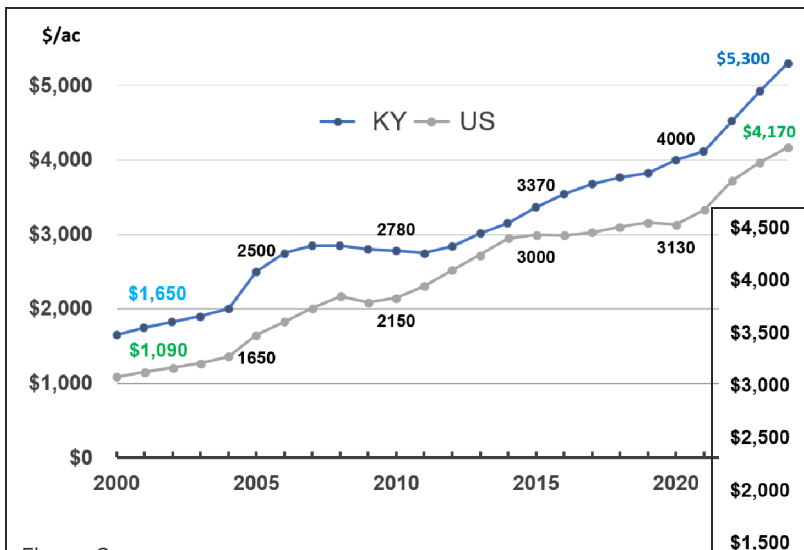


Figure 2

2024 Farmland Values

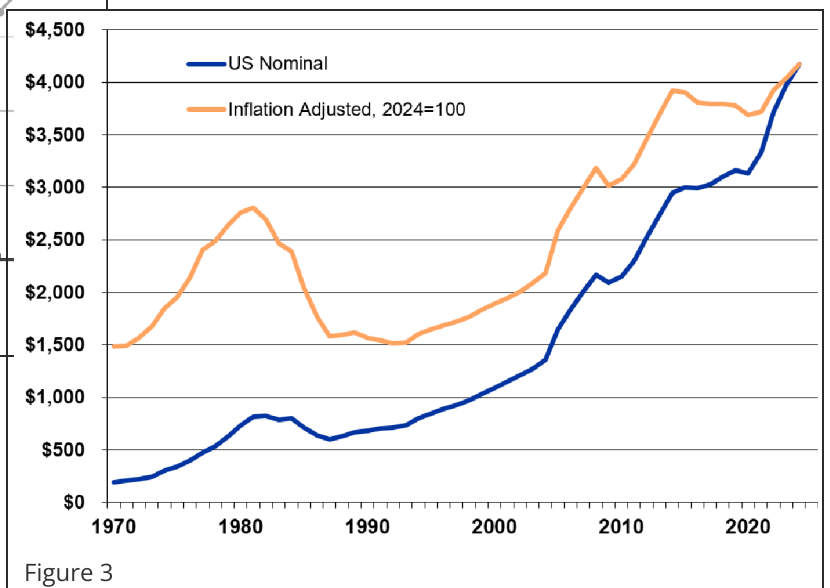


Figure 3

Continued from page 3

Recipe of the Month

2022 KYNE

Baked Dove Breast

Directions: In a covered container, soak the dove breasts in buttermilk overnight in the refrigerator. Remove breasts and discard buttermilk. Pat breasts dry with a paper towel. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Combine salt, pepper, and smoked paprika and stir. Rub mixture into breasts. Place breasts in a shallow greased baking dish and brush with oil. Add diced apples, onions, and celery. Add a half cup of water to the pan and cover tightly. Bake for one hour and 15 minutes. After 45 minutes, pour the orange juice over breasts and baste.

320 calories; 17g total fat; 4.5g saturated fat; 0g trans fat; 130mg cholesterol; 370mg sodium; 15g carbohydrate; 2g fiber; 11g sugars; 28g protein; 0% DV of Vitamin D; 4% DV of calcium; 40% DV of iron; 10% DV of potassium.

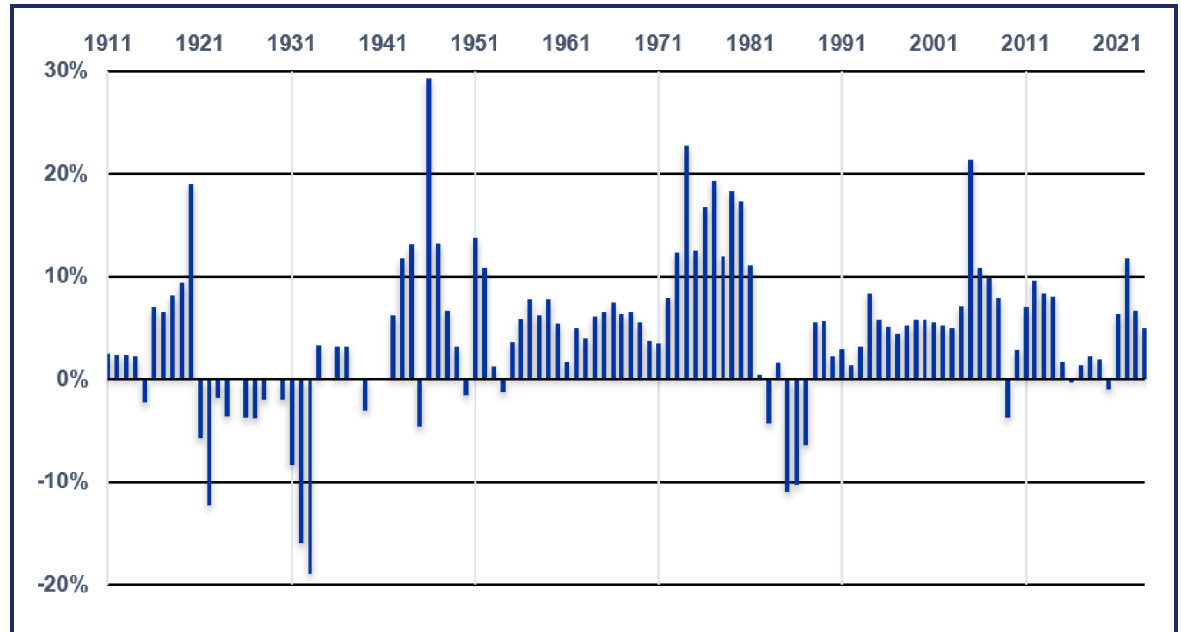
Ingredients:

- 12 dove breasts, cleaned
- 2 cups buttermilk
- ¾ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- 1½ teaspoons smoked paprika
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 2 medium apples, diced
- 1 large onion, diced
- 2 celery stalks, sliced
- 1 cup orange juice

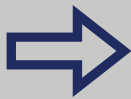
Servings: 6

Serving Size: 2 dove breasts

2024 Farmland Values Continued from page 3



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Website:
marshall.ca.uky.edu/anr



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