



## 4-H Camp

If you are signed up for camp, you will be receiving a packet in the mail before Spring Break with camp information and forms to complete!



We are still looking for adult volunteers to attend 4-H Camp.

## FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES



Creating Healthy & Sustainable Families

**Spring into Self Care:  
A Women's Wellness Workshop**  
Saturday, March 2

**Scissor Sharpening "Snippy Jim"**  
Tuesday, March 19

**Family Health & Fitness Day**  
Saturday, April 20

**An International Event:  
2024 Feature Country: Ukraine**  
Tuesday, April 23

(see pages 2-3 for details)

## AG PROGRAMS

- ◆ CAIP Education
- ◆ Frogs & Snakes & Turtles
  - ◆ BQCA Trainings
  - ◆ Farmers Market Scales Inspection
- ◆ Basic Pasture Management Class
- ◆ Using Drones in Agriculture Class
- ◆ Bull Evaluation & Testing Series
- ◆ Product Best Practices Training
- ◆ Rooted in Shelby Membership Meeting
  - ◆ Marketing for All Training
  - ◆ Optimizing Baleage Quality

## Horticulture

### Fruit Tree Pruning



### Poison Hemlock

April:

### Soils and Water Month

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**Spring into Self-Care:  
A Women’s Wellness Workshop**  
Saturday, March 2, 12 - 3 p.m.

Join other women in a day of self-care, including empowerment, mental and physical wellness, home spa care, humor, & more! A light lunch will be provided.

We will be collecting donations of new or gently used purses filled with feminine hygiene products. These “power purses” will be donated to Operation Care Women’s Shelter.

Space is limited! FREE! Registration required. For more information & to register, contact us:

[elizabeth.coots@uky.edu](mailto:elizabeth.coots@uky.edu)  
502-633-4593  
<http://tinurl.com/35c43bit>



**First Saturday Walkabout**

Saturday, March 2  
Saturday, April 6

Don’t forget about participating in the monthly **First Saturday Walkabout!** On the first Saturday of **every month**, sign in at the front desk of Clear Creek FAC between **8 - 8:30 a.m.** and you will receive one FREE Day Pass per person to use at a later date. After signing in, you can walk on the trails, on the walking path, or on the inside walking track. Then, you can use your pass at any future date of your choosing.



**Sewing Circle**

1st Tuesday of each Month, 1 - 8 p.m.

Interested in learning how to sew, hone your sewing skills, or gather with other sewing enthusiasts? Come join us on the 1st Tuesday of each month! Choose from two projects offered (an easier one and a more challenging one) and/or join us for open sew where you can bring your own project to work on and ask for guidance from our Certified Master Clothing Volunteers. For descriptions and photos of each project, pick up a flyer at the Extension Office or visit our Facebook page or website.

Please register in order to plan for supplies and food - call 502-633-4593 or email [elizabeth.coots@uky.edu](mailto:elizabeth.coots@uky.edu)

**March 5 Projects:**

*Quilted Table Runner  
Log Cabin Potholder*

**April 2 Projects:**

*Batik Fabric Dying  
Simply Beautiful Shrug/Cover-Up*



**Homebased Microprocessor Class**

Monday, March 18

9:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.

Homebased microprocessors are farmers who grow and harvest produce to use in their value-added products. Homebased microprocessors are required to grow a predominant ingredient in the products they make. The first step to becoming certified as a homebased microprocessor is to attend a Homebased Microprocessor workshop presented by the University of Kentucky. The cost of the workshop is \$50.00 and will be held at the Extension Office.

For more information and to register, visit [ukfcs.net/HBM](http://ukfcs.net/HBM), call 502-633-4593, or email [elizabeth.coots@uky.edu](mailto:elizabeth.coots@uky.edu)

**Scissor Sharpening**

Tuesday, March 19

11 a.m.—3 p.m.



Jim Stohr, aka “Snippy Jim”, will be coming to the Shelby County Extension Office to provide his sharpening services.

In addition to scissors, he sharpens snips, pinking shears, knives, garden tools, axes, loopers, and manual hedge trimmers. Any tool that needs to be sharpened can be brought. His technique does not involve grinding the implement, but rather sharpening. This is a drop-in event. No reservations required. **\$5 per item.**

**Soap Making Workshop**

Thursday, March 21, 7 p.m.

Learn all about making homemade soaps. Some hands-on learning. You will leave with some soap to try out at home. **\$5 per person. Due March 15. Payment secures your seat.**

**Laugh & Learn Play Dates**

Wednesday, March 20, 5 p.m.

*Theme: Dinosaurs*

Wednesday, April 24, 5 p.m.

*Theme: Being Healthy*

This free monthly playdate is for children ages 3-5 and their caregiver. The program engages child(ren) in playful activities that are specifically designed to prepare them for kindergarten. Your child(ren) will listen to a story, sing songs, make crafts, play games, and enjoy a healthy snack. Parents/guardians must also attend. In partnership with the Shelby County Public Library and Northside Preschool.

Please register - call 502-633-4593, email [elizabeth.coots@uky.edu](mailto:elizabeth.coots@uky.edu), or online: <http://tinyurl.com/2keynrww>



**Savor the Flavor:  
Seasoning with Spices**  
Wednesday, March 27, 10 a.m.

Should I buy whole versus ground spices? Which are the best ones to have on hand while cooking? You may hear often that spices are a great way to add flavor without additional sodium and fat, but how? Join us to learn about various spices, how to incorporate them into your favorite dishes, and enhance flavor while cooking! Registration requested.

**Starting a Food  
Production Business**  
Thursday, April 18, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Learn how to get started with your food production business idea. Topics include requirements, permits, certifications, commercial kitchens, insurance, and resources. There will be guest presenters for each topic. Held at the Extension Office and Zoom. If you can't attend, you can still register to receive the recording and resources.

To register: call 502-633-4593, email [elizabeth.coots@uky.edu](mailto:elizabeth.coots@uky.edu), or online: <http://tinyurl.com/2a9myrhh>



**AARP Smart Driver Course**  
Friday, April 19, 12-4 p.m.

Take the AARP Smart Driver classroom course and you could save on your car insurance! Refresh your driving skills and knowledge of the rules of the road. Learn techniques for handling left turns, right-of-ways, and roundabouts. Discover proven

driving methods to help keep you and your loved ones safe on the road. Please bring your payment with you on the day of the class to give directly to the instructors. Cost: \$20 for AARP Members \$25 for non-members

To register: call 502-633-4593 or email [elizabeth.coots@uky.edu](mailto:elizabeth.coots@uky.edu).

**Family Health & Fitness Day**  
Saturday, April 20  
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Family Activity Center, Gymnasium

Bring the whole family! Visit vendor booths with lots of swag, door prizes, giveaways, and more—all geared towards health, fitness, and fun! FREE for everyone to attend. No registration required. Door prizes will be drawn at the end of the event (you do not need to be present to win).

**Time Well Spent: Organizing  
Tips for Increased Productivity**  
Wednesday, April 24, 10 a.m.

Productivity allows us to make progress on and complete necessary tasks. However, many people are not as productive as they would like to be. Through this lesson, you will learn how clutter and disorganization can negatively affect your productivity. You also will gain ideas for better ways to organize your time and workspace. Registration requested.

**An International Event:  
2024 Feature Country: Ukraine**  
Tuesday, April 23  
6 p.m. (Registration 5:30 p.m.)

Join us as we hear all about Ukraine from Meriem Useinova, a native of the country. Learn about traditions, foods, agriculture, and family life. A meal will be served featuring native recipes.

Cost: \$15, due by April 9. Payment must be received to reserve your seat.

Articles By: *M. Elizabeth Coots*

Elizabeth Coots  
Cooperative Extension Agent for  
Family & Consumer Sciences

**Poison Hemlock**

Poison Hemlock (Conium maculatum) is coming up across Shelby County and now is the best time to treat for it. This plant has been rapidly spreading across Kentucky for the past several years and is commonly found along roadways, abandoned lots, fencerows, grazed pastures, and other sites. Not only is this plant invasive, but it is also extremely toxic and is well known to be responsible for accidental deaths in animals and humans.

When emerging, the plant starts out looking much like a fern or edible crop plant like carrots or parsley. It can grow to be around 6-8 feet tall at maturity and eventually develops purple spots along the stem which helps distinguish it from other plants that look similar. The flowers look somewhat like the flowers of Queen Anne’s lace with a series of compound umbels at the end of each flower stalk.

The best strategy for controlling poison hemlock is to prevent it from going to seed. This plant is a biennial - meaning that it lives for, at most, two growing seasons before it has to come up again from seed. With persistent removal, the population should, hopefully, be thinned out over time. This can be a challenge, as a single mature plant is capable of producing more than 35,000 new seeds and by the time the plant starts flowering, it is too late to use herbicides. Instead, mechanical methods such as mowing or cutting the plants down should be utilized.



If wanting to use herbicides, they are most effective while the plants are small. 2,4-D, triclopyr or glyphosate can be effective in controlling their growth. Source: [Poison Hemlock: A Growing Concern in Kentucky](#), By JD Green.

**Upcoming Classes**

**Frogs, Snakes, And Turtles, OH MY!**

This is a program on **March 5th** that we are all excited for! Being taught by Dr. Steve Price from UK, he’ll be discussing reptiles, amphibians, and fish you can find in your backyard and how they contribute to the health of our ecosystem. Please note: there will be live specimens included in the presentation. Please see page 8 for the details.

**Tool Sharpening**

Stop by on **March 19th** and get your tools sharpened with Jim Stohr, who will be setting up shop in the Extension Office and providing his tool sharpening services from **11 a.m.-3 p.m.** He sharpens handheld garden tools, knives, axes, scissors, and more. **Each item sharpened is \$5.** See page 2 for more details.

**Fruit Tree Pruning**

On **March 19th** we are partnering with Mulberry Orchard to have a fruit tree pruning demonstration. **Starting at the Extension Office**, Walt Reichert will be providing instruction on pruning and caring for fruit trees at **5 p.m.**, after which we will head to **Mulberry Orchard** for a demonstration at **6:30 p.m.** If you are interested in joining, please sign up at (502) 633-4593.

**Topic of the Month**

We are excited to announce a new experimental framework from which we plan to deliver future horticulture classes. Rather than choosing to teach multiple topics in a month (for example, in May we could have a class on vegetable gardening, one on soils, and one on household pests) we plan to announce one topic each month and then teach 3-5 classes related to that topic. For example, June could be Pollinator Month and we could have programs dedicated to the monarch butterfly, beekeeping, selecting plants for pollinators, hummingbirds, etc.

With this way of delivering classes we are hoping to provide programs which reach a more diverse audience. Using the pollinators example, we could have classes targeted towards beekeepers (extracting honey, hive checks), then have classes for beginners and the general populous (basic beekeeping, protecting our pollinators), classes or activities for kids (building a bumblebee house), field trips (such as to a monarch waystation), and/or fundraisers (the Extension office could sell honey from the hives on their property). And, by advertising them all together, we are hoping to entice participants into taking multiple programs over the course of that month.

There is also the benefit of having one topic when planning ahead. If, for example, May is Wildlife Month, then we could potentially coordinate some classes between program areas. FCS may do a class on cooking with mushrooms or 4-H could have a class on animal tracks and again, we could advertise them all together.

The trial run for Topic of The Month will begin in April with Soils and Water Month. May is shaping up to be Wildlife Month, but there will be more details on it in the next newsletter.

**April: Soils and Water Month**

Soil and water are essential in our daily lives and they are often taken for granted. Without soil, we would not have plants and without plants, we would have no animals, paper, clothing, food, shelter, oxygen, or medicine. Without water, we would not have life. This month is all about soil and water, managing it, appreciating it, and learning about what relies on it.

**Taking, Reading, and Applying Soil Tests**

Have you ever wanted to take a soil test but were not quite sure where to start? Or maybe you have had a soil test done before but was not sure how to read the results or apply the information to your yard/garden? Come join us at the Extension office on **April 8th (Monday) starting at 5 p.m.** for an hour of hands-on instruction where we talk about how to take soil tests, read the results, and apply those results to your land. Part of this class will be outdoors so please dress for the weather. If you would like to sign up, please call the office at (502) 633-4593.

**Tree Planting**

Every year the Extension office receives hundreds of bareroot native trees from Shelby Co. Soil Conservation to freely give to people in the community. This is a first come, first serve event and we are expecting to have it around mid-March (we never know the exact date until a week before the event). This year, we'll keep a few handfuls to give out during this **April 5th** program on how to plant and care for bareroot trees, which will be held at **4 p.m.** This class is free but **limited to 15 participants** due to a limitation on supplies. Please contact the office (502) 633-4593 to sign up.

**Rain Gardens/Barrels and Stormwater**

Learn about harnessing the water on your property with a one hour program on rain barrels and rain gardens, followed by a semi-interactive one

hour program on stormwater management by Jennifer Herrell. **This program is CAIP approved** and is on **April 24th** from **5:30 -7:30 p.m.** Please contact the office at (502) 633-4593 to sign up.

**Composting, Manure, and Soil Conservation**

Join us for a two-part class on **April 17th (Wednesday) at 5 p.m.** The first hour we'll learn all about how to start and manage a compost bin as well as utilize manure in the garden. The second hour, Debra Truax with the Soil Conservation Services will go over the various programs that they have to offer to the residents of Shelby County from site evaluations to cost-share programs dealing with sinkhole repair, pollinator habitats, controlling weeds in pastures, and more. Please contact the office at (502) 633-4593.

**Beekeepers Association**

The Beekeepers Association meets every fourth Thursday of the month and welcomes both experienced beekeepers and beginners looking to learn. Their next two meetings will be on **March 22nd and April 26th**, both at 7 p.m. and located at the Extension Office. Dues are \$10 to join.

**Soap-Making Class**

The Beekeepers are partnering with FCS to teach a soap making class this March. Please see page 2 for the details.

**Master Gardeners Association**

The Master Gardeners Association meets at the Extension Office every **2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.** The next meeting will be on **March 12th** and the topic will be 'Planning for a Successful Plant Sale' lead by Carol Luken. On **April 9th**, Walt Reichert will be teaching the topic of 'Planting Shrubs that Attract Pollinators'. There is a zoom option if you find you cannot attend in person.

**Garden Fair/Plant Sale**

The Master Gardener Plant Sale is scheduled for the Saturday before Mother's Day this year (**May 11th**). More details to come in the following newsletter.

Articles By: *A. Skye Drane*  
Skye Drane  
Horticulture Technician

## 4-H Shooting Sports Meeting

Shelby County 4-H Shooting Sports Club will kick off a new year at a Parent/New Member Open Meeting on Thursday, March 7 at 6 p.m. at the Shelby County Extension Office. This meeting will provide important information about the club and expectations for 4-H members and parents. We encourage anyone interested in shooting sports to attend this meeting. Shooting Sports includes the disciplines of archery, riflery, pistol, and trap.



## 4-H Camp Update

Response to attend 4-H Camp has been overwhelming! Camp is currently full and a waiting list has started. If you would like to be put on the waiting list for camp please turn in your camper registration form to the Extension Office. We will not be accepting camp payments for campers placed on the waiting list. If a camp spot becomes available we will contact the next camper on the waiting list. There is still a good chance you could go to camp as families make other plans for the summer and remove their kids from the camp list.

Teen Leaders and CIT's should submit their applications by March 15. The interviews and selection process will begin soon and you will be contacted by the Extension Office.

We still need additional adult volunteers to attend 4-H Camp. If you are interested, please complete an application and volunteer packet. We will have an orientation for all volunteers that go to camp. Camp is a rewarding experience for volunteers and it is free to volunteer!

## Shelby County Fair

The Shelby County Fair is June 10-15. We are looking forward to showcasing all of the great project work of our 4-H members.

It is not too early to start preparing your fair entries now. Please be aware that 4-H project categories can change from year to year. Stop by the Shelby County Extension Office to pick-up a 4-H Fair Entry Catalog and, if applicable, the curriculum that goes along with the projects.

## Livestock Quiz Bowl State Competition

Congratulations to Sophie Franklin, Henley Stephens and Preston Zinner on winning Junior Team Champion at the State 4-H Livestock Quiz Bowl Team contest in February.

## Kentucky Ag Tag Program Donations

During the month of March farmers can make the voluntary donation of \$10 when renewing their farm license plates at the county clerk's office in March. March is the month that all farm tags expire and need to be renewed. All voluntary donations will be split evenly between 4-H, FFA and the Kentucky Proud program.



Last year Shelby County 4-H received just over \$1,400 from the program. Funds were used to support the 4-H program in Shelby County.

Making the voluntary \$10 donation is an excellent opportunity for our agricultural community to support the youth of our community and help fund the programs that can make a lasting difference in their lives.

## 4-H Fashion Revue

Fashion Revue will be held on May 2 at 7 p.m. at the Shelby County Extension Office. Everyone is invited to attend and see the participants enrolled in 4-H sewing, crochet and knitting projects model their creations.

If you want to participate in the Fashion Revue, please fill out a Clothing Information Sheet. 4-H'ers who are sewing at Heritage and the Extension Office will receive a Clothing Information Sheet during their workshop. If you are not sewing in one of the workshops, please contact [candice.hollingsworth@uky.edu](mailto:candice.hollingsworth@uky.edu) for a sheet. We need these turned in prior to the Fashion Revue so we can create score cards and write scripts for each model.

## 4-H Livestock Judging

4-H'ers interested in beef cattle, sheep, swine and meat goats should join the Livestock Judging Team!

Livestock judging teaches the basics of meat animal evaluation, breed identification, and EPD's and performance data. Team members learn to compare and rank classes of livestock and then to defend their decisions with oral reasons.

Livestock Judging practices will begin March 11 from 4-6 p.m. and continue each Monday after until the state contest. For more information or to join the team, contact the Extension Office.



## Livestock Skill-a-thon State Competition

Congratulations to the Shelby County 4-H Skill-a-thon Team as they took home top honors in Senior Division at the State Contest. The Senior Team earned an invitation to participate in the National Contest in November. Overall Competition Results included:

### **High Senior Team Overall:**

Sebastian Gilleo, Eli Ballard, Nick Gajdzik and Wade Browning.

### **2nd Place Senior Team:**

Caleb Lipps, Jorja Gilleo, Cate Noe and Mirabella Koralia.

### **Senior Overall Individual Results:**

Sebastian Gilleo (1st), Nick Gajdzik (2nd), Eli Ballard (3rd), Caleb Lipps (7th), Jorja Gilleo (12th), Cate Note (26th), Mirabella Koralia (60th). There were 69 Senior Contestants from across the state.

### **High Junior Team Overall:**

Sophie Franklin, Ruby Ballard, Henley Stephens, and Elle Gilleo.

### **5th Place Junior Team:**

Abby Gajdzik, Preston Zinner, Mason Way and Lane McCall.

### **10th Place Junior Team:**

Stella Franklin, Nash Wonderlich, Henry Miller and John Luke Miller

### **20th Place Junior Team:**

Raylon Tucker, Robert Wood and Walker Jeffries.

### **Junior Overall Individual Results:**

Sophie Franklin (2nd), Henley Stephens (5th), Ruby Ballard (7th), Mason Way (11th), Abby Gajdzik (13th), Lane McCall (31st), Henry Miller (33rd), Stella Franklin (35th), Nash Wonderlich (37th), John Luke Miller (40th), Isabelle Gilleo (48th), Walker Jeffries (52nd), Preston Zinner (57th), Robert Wood (73rd), Raylon Tucker (82nd). There were 109 Junior Contestants from across the state.

### **High 9 & 10 Year Old Award:**

Lane McCall (4th), Henry Miller (5th)

### **Cloverbud Competitor:**

Grant Mitchell & Ryan Tucker

## 2024 Livestock Project Tagging

NEW THIS YEAR - Any 4-H or FFA member wanting to show market livestock and/or breeding swine at either KDA District Shows or Kentucky State Fair must complete the Livestock Validation Process. The process requires in-person tagging at one of the official validation sites. All exhibitors are also required to have a National Premise ID before coming to the Validation Site. If the location where the animal will be housed has a National Premise ID, that number will be used. If the location where the animal will be housed does not have a National Premise ID, one will need to be secured prior to travel to the Validation Site. No animals will be tagged without a National Premise ID. For validation forms, tagging sites and information on how to obtain a National Premise ID stop by the Shelby County Extension Office or visit <https://afs.ca.uky.edu/4h-youth/validations>.

**Forms require an agent signature before attending a validation site.**

<b>Livestock Validation Deadlines</b>	
<i>Species</i>	<i>Last Day to Validate</i>
Market Cattle	March 16
Market Sheep, Goats & Market/Breeding Hogs	May 15

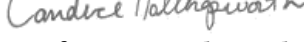
Animals that will only be exhibited as breeding animals (breeding heifers, breeding ewes, and breeding does) do not need to go through the validation process. However, any youth planning on showing a breeding animal will need to contact Regina or Candice by May 15 so we can enroll them in a breeding project and verify their 6 hours of education.

### Educational Hours

All youth that want to participate in livestock, dairy or horse projects must receive six hours of education under the direction of a certified leader each year. You must obtain these hours before you are approved to show or participate in any district or state events. If you have questions about obtaining your hours, contact your club leader or the Extension Office.

Articles By:

Regina Browning   
Cooperative Extension Agent for 4-H Youth Development

Candice Hollingsworth   
Cooperative Extension Agent for 4-H Youth Development

**CAIP Educational Meetings**

As we move into the spring months local Extension educational meetings will begin winding down. Producers who applied for CAIP funding in the 2023 funding cycle should be looking for opportunities to complete the educational component as soon as possible. Classes will continue to be offered through April that will satisfy the requirement.

If you submitted an application, go ahead and fulfil your educational requirement, even if you are on the waiting list. Don't wait until the last minute to complete your educational training because classes are very limited during the late spring and summer months. Upcoming classes can be found in the bi-monthly Extension newsletter, on the Shelby County Extension Facebook page and on our website. You can also call the office at 633-4593 and ask about upcoming classes.

**Frogs and Snakes and Turtles, OH MY!**

Are you interested in learning more about the creatures that live in your yard or pond? Maybe you have you seen a salamander in your creek and admired its brightly colored skin or been startled by a snake sunning on a rock near your woodpile.

Join us on **Tuesday, March 5th at 6 p.m.** to learn about how reptiles and amphibians contribute to the ecological health of our environment. Dr. Steve Price, UK Associate Professor of Stream and Riparian Ecology in the Department of Forestry and Natural Resources will discuss ecology, conservation, and management of aquatic and semi-aquatic animals and freshwater systems.

Dr. Price's presentation will include representatives of the reptile and amphibian families. Please call 633-4593 to reserve your space.

**BOCA Trainings**

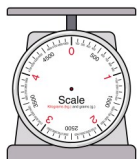
Producers applying for CAIP funding who need Beef Quality Care and Assurance training should plan to attend one of several upcoming sessions. BQCA will not be offered through the summer months, so be sure to take care of your requirement early!

- **Tuesday, March 12, 6 p.m.**
- **Thursday, March 28, 9 a.m.**

Call 633-4593 to register. There is a \$5 fee for the course and farm gate signs are available for an additional \$5.

**Farmers Market Scales Certification**

Producers planning to market produce at Farmers Markets this year can bring scales to the Extension Office for inspection and certification.



Scales may be dropped off anytime the **week of March 11 prior to 9 a.m. on Thursday, the 14th.** A KDA inspector will certify the scales during the day of the 14th and they may be picked up late afternoon that day or on Friday, March 15. Call 633-4593 for more information.

**Basic Pasture Management Class**

Join us on **Tuesday, March 12 at 7 p.m.** (following BQCA training) at the Extension Office to learn about basic pasture plant identification, weed control and strategies to improve your stand of desirable grasses and legumes. This will be an introductory-level class, so don't feel bad if you don't know the difference between orchard grass and onion!

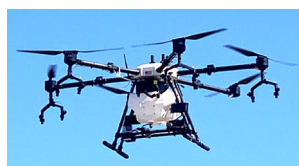


This class will provide an overview of forage identification and use for livestock grazing and hay production. Participants will learn strategies for pasture renovation and optimum timing for relative practices including seeding and fertilization. Discussion will include interpretation and application of forage test results. Weed control recommendations will be provided, including chemical and non-chemical options.

Call 633-4593 to reserve your space.

**Using Drones in Agriculture**

Join us on **Thursday, March 14th from 11 a.m.—2 p.m.** to learn about applications for utilizing drones in agriculture.



From pest and livestock management to scouting and spray applications, drones are bringing technology to the farm. Dr. Josh Jackson, UK professor of livestock systems and Sean Burnette, local producer and drone spray business owner will discuss and demonstrate various uses of drones for on-farm tasks.

Lunch will be provided, so please call 633-4593 to reserve your space.

**Bull Evaluation and Testing Series**

Beef producers using herd bulls to service their cows should plan to attend the Bull Selection, Testing, Evaluation and Genetics Series. The series will begin on **Thursday, March 14th at 6 p.m. at United Producers Stockyards** in Owenton with discussion and training



on selection, examination and testing necessary for bulls prior to the breeding season. A sponsored meal will be provided, so please rsvp.

The series will continue the following night, **March 15th at 5:30 p.m. at UPI** with a brief course on EPDs and Genomic Testing.



Finally, producers will be able to schedule Breeding Soundness Exams (BSEs) for **Saturday, March 23rd from 8 a.m.—Noon at UPI**. Producers who participate in both educational sessions will receive a discounted price on their BSEs.

To reserve your space and schedule a BSE appointment, please call 633-4593. Please note, there is limited availability for BSE appointments, so book yours as soon as possible.

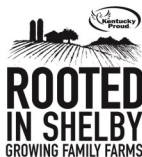
### **Produce Best Practices Training**

Fruit and vegetable producers who plan to sell at Farmers' Markets this year and who need an All-Samples Certificate should attend the Produce Best Practices Training (PBPT) on **Tuesday, March 26 at 6 p.m.** at the Extension Office.

Call 633-4593 with questions or to reserve your space.

### **Rooted in Shelby Membership Meeting**

Rooted in Shelby members should plan to attend a membership meeting on **Thursday, April 25 at 6 p.m.** at the Extension Office. We will discuss possible marketing opportunities and share relative information for RIS members.



### **Marketing For All Training**

Small business and farmers market vendors should plan to join us on **Thursday, April 18 at 6 p.m.** for Marketing for All training. Experts from the Center for Crop Diversification will discuss beefing up your Personal Selling Skills and Digital Marketing Basics. RSVP to 633-4593 to reserve your space.

### **Optimizing baleage quality: A guide for Kentucky forage producers**

Source: Jimmy Henning, plant and soil science professor

Round-baled silage has emerged as a preferred method for preserving high-quality forage in Kentucky, offering numerous advantages for livestock feeding. However, this technique presents unique challenges. Notably, achieving the ideal moisture content (MC) of 40-60% and ensuring the forage is adequately oxygen-free when wrapped in plastic.

A fermentation report helps producers evaluate the quality of their baleage and assess potential feeding risks. Poorly fermented baleage can lead to clostridial bacterial growth, and even botulism.

Here are some ways to optimize your baleage quality:

- **pH and its Importance:** Ensiling lowers bale pH through the production of lactic acid. A pH of 5.0 or lower inhibits clostridial bacteria growth. The target pH varies with forage type and moisture content. For example, legume baleage is stable at a higher pH than grasses.
- **Moisture Content and Dry Matter:** Achieving a MC within the 40-60% range is essential for effective fermentation. The sweet spot for fermentation is between 50-60% MC, fostering robust lactic acid production and maintaining a pH below 5.0, thereby inhibiting harmful clostridial bacteria. Baleage with MC lower than 50% may have restricted lactic acid production and elevated pH levels, potentially affecting fermentation. However, bales kept anaerobic by at least six layers of UV-resistant plastic can remain valuable feed, even if not fully fermented.
- **Crude Protein:** The forage's crude protein content, determined by its nitrogen content multiplied by 6.25, is a key indicator of fermentation potential. Early-cut forages, which usually have higher crude protein levels, also possess more fermentable carbohydrates, crucial for a successful fermentation process.
- **Lactic and Acetic Acids:** Lactic acid, the primary product of anaerobic fermentation, is pivotal in reducing pH and stabilizing baleage. Desired lactic acid levels are above 3% on a dry matter basis. However, levels often fall below this target, especially when MC is under 50%. These lower levels are not overly concerning if the bales are wrapped in plastic which remains intact until feeding. Acetic acid, vital for preventing yeast and mold growth once bales are exposed to oxygen, should ideally be between 1-4% (DM basis). Excessive acetic acid may signal issues like high moisture content or clostridial fermentations.
- **Propionic and Butyric Acids:** These acids should be minimized, with propionic acid below 1% and butyric acid under 0.5% (DM basis). Elevated levels indicate possible fermentation problems, such as insufficient sugars for fermentation or secondary fermentation by clostridial bacteria, potentially affecting livestock health.
- **Ammonia and Ash Content:** Ammonia, measured as a percentage of total nitrogen or as a crude protein equivalent, indicates the extent of clostridial fermentation. Ammonia-N levels exceeding 15% suggest significant clostridial activity. Ash content can reveal soil contamination; levels above 11% often mean dirt intrusion, a primary pathway for clostridial bacteria into baleage.
- **Physical Observation:** Evaluating baleage's physical attributes, such as odor, bale shape and effluent presence, is also crucial. A pleasant smell, the absence of seepage and intact plastic wrapping are good indicators of successful fermentation.

Articles By:

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Cooperative Extension Agent for  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

# CAIP UPDATE

The 2023 program year is well underway. The deadline to submit applications was October 25, 2023. All status letters were mailed to applicants the first week of December. If you were approved for funding, please don't wait until the deadline to get your paperwork turned in. Right now, the typical turnaround time for processing paperwork and getting a check to you is 2 – 3 weeks. If you wait until the deadline, May 15, 2024, it will be approximately four weeks processing time. Just a reminder that the retroactive date for expenses and education is March 1, 2023. If you haven't completed your education, now is a good time to do so as classes will become scarce after April. Education classes can be found in the newsletter under Ag/Hort., on social media Shelby County Cooperative Extension Facebook page, and on the extension website. It is advisable that you meet your education requirements early in the spring, as classes are not readily available after May 1.

Feel free to contact me, Evelyn White– CAIP Administrator, if you have any questions. Contact information:  
*cell: 502.321.8757 or office: 502.633.4593*  
*email: shelby.caip@gmail.com*

Office hours are Wednesdays from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**\*Notice, the deadline to submit projects for approved applicants has been extended to May 15, 2024.**

## MARCH

FCS	02	Spring into Self-Care, 12-3 p.m.	Extension Office
FCS	02	First Saturday Walkabout, 8 a.m.	Family Activity Center
AG	04	Master Cattlemen, 5:30 p.m.	Shelby Extension Office
AG	05	Frog, Snakes and Turtles, OH MY!, 6 p.m.	Extension Office
FCS	05	Sewing Circle, 1-8 p.m.	Extension Office
4-H	07	Shooting Sports Parent/New member Open Meeting, 6 p.m.	Extension Office
4-H	11	Fur & Feathers Rabbit & Poultry Club, 6:30 p.m.	Extension Office
4-H	11	Livestock Club, 7 p.m.	Extension Office
AG	12	BQCA, 6 p.m.	Extension Office
AG	12	Pasture Management Class, 7 p.m.	Extension Office
HORT	12	Master Gardener Association Meeting, 6 p.m.	Extension Office

# MARCH Continued...

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AG	14	Using Drones in Agriculture, 11 a.m.– 2 p.m.	Extension Office
AG	14	Scales Certification, Drop 11-14th /Pick up 15th	Extension Office
4-H	14	Communications Day, 6 p.m.	Extension Office
Ag	14/15	Bull Evaluation & Testing, 6 p.m.	Extension Office
4-H	18	Dairy Club, 6:30 p.m.	Extension Office
FCS	18	Homebased Microprocessor Class, 9:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.	Extension Office
FCS	19	Scissor Sharpening, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Extension Office
HORT	19	Fruit Tree Pruning, Instruction at Office: 5 p.m. Demonstration at Orchard: 6:30 p.m.	Extension Office/Mulberry Orchard
FCS	20	Laugh & Learn, Play Date, 5 p.m.	Extension Office
FCS	21	Soap Making Workshop, 7 p.m.	Extension Office
AG	23	Dairy Club Meeting, 1 p.m.	Shelby Vet Clinic
AG	26	Produce Best Practices Training, 6-8 p.m.	Extension Office
FCS	27	Building Flavor with Spices, 10 a.m.	Extension Office
Ag	27	Hort. & Ag. Advisory Council, 6 p.m.	Extension Office
AG	28	BQCA, 9 a.m.	Extension Office
4-H	28	Cloverbud Club, 6 p.m.	Extension Office
4-H	28	Saddles N Spurs Horse Club, 6:30 p.m.	Extension Office
HORT	28	Beekeeper's Association Meeting, 7 p.m.	Extension Office
4-H	28	Cloverbud's Meeting, 6 p.m.	Extension Office

## APRIL

FCS	02	Sewing Circle, 1-8 p.m.	Extension Office
4-H	02	Fashion Revue, 7 p.m.	Extension Office
HORT	05	Planting Bareroot Trees, 4 p.m.	Extension Office
FCS	06	First Saturday Walkabout, 8 a.m.	Family Activity Center
4-H	08	Fur & Feathers Rabbit & Poultry Club, 6:30 p.m.	Extension Office
4-H	08	Livestock Club, 7 p.m.	Extension Office
HORT	08	Taking, Reading, and Applying Soil Tests, 5 p.m.	Extension Office
HORT	09	Master Gardener Association Meeting, 6:30 p.m.	Extension Office
4-H	15	Dairy Club, 6:30 p.m.	Extension Office
AG	16	Cattlemen's Association Meeting, 7 p.m.	Extension Office
HORT	17	Composting, Manure, Soil Conservation, 5 p.m.	Extension Office
AG	18	Marketing for All Training, 6 p.m.	Extension Office
FCS	18	Starting a Food Production Business, 10 a.m.—12 p.m.	Extension Office
FCS	19	AARP Smart Driver Course, 12—4 p.m.	Extension Office
FCS	20	Family Health & Fitness Day, 9 a.m.—12 p.m.	Family Activity Center
FCS	23	International Event, 6 p.m.	Extension Office
FCS	24	Time Well Spent: Organizing Tips..., 10 a.m.	Extension Office
FCS	24	Laugh & Learn, 5 p.m.	Extension Office
HORT	24	Rain Gardens/Barrels and Stormwater, 5:30p.m –7:30p.m.	Extension Office
AG	25	Rooted in Shelby, 6 p.m.	Extension Office
HORT	25	Beekeeper's Association Meeting, 7 p.m.	Extension Office
4-H	25	Cloverbud's Meeting, 6 p.m.	Extension Office
4-H	25	Saddles N Spurs Horse Club, 6:30 p.m.	Extension Office

### KEY

4-H  
4-H Youth  
Develop-  
ment

AG  
Agriculture

HORT  
Horticulture

FCS  
Family &  
Consumer  
Sciences

\*



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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.