



Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

JUNE 2025

Agriculture & Natural Resources Events

Magoffin County
15 Rockhouse Fork Rd
Salyersville, KY 41465
(606) 349-1236
magoffin.ca.uky.edu

A Message From Your ANR Agent:

You may have heard the buzz—literally! Periodical cicadas are making their appearance, and while they may be loud and plentiful, they're completely harmless. These fascinating insects don't bite, sting, or damage plants in your garden. In fact, they play an important role in the ecosystem by aerating soil and providing food for wildlife. So enjoy the natural spectacle—they'll be gone before you know it! Read more about these fascinating insects on page 4.

Calling all young nature lovers! Don't miss our Hooked on Nature Day Camp—a FREE fun-filled week of outdoor exploration, games, crafts, and hands-on learning about the natural world. It's the perfect way for kids to unplug, make new friends, and discover the wonders of nature. Spaces are limited, so sign up soon and get ready for an adventure in the great outdoors! Call us at 606-349-1236 to register.

Follow us on Facebook or check out our website at <https://magoffin.ca.uky.edu> for more information about up coming events.



Kristen Stumbo

Kristen Stumbo
County Extension Agent for
Agriculture & Natural Resources
and 4-H Youth Development

In this issue:

Better Pastures Equals Healthier Herds.....	2
Hooked on Nature Day Camp.....	3
Periodical Cicadas	4
Youth Livestock Club.....	5
Farmer's Market Grand Opening.....	6
Container Gardening.....	7
Orchard Tour and Plate It Up Recipe	8

Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.
Lexington, KY 40506



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with prior notification.

Better Pastures Equals Healthier Herds

Source: Christopher Teutsch, UK extension associate professor and forage specialist

Rotational stocking, often referred to as rotational grazing, is a powerful technique that can bring a range of benefits to all types of livestock as well as the land. By dividing large pastures into smaller paddocks and moving animals through them on a planned schedule, farmers can give each grazed area a rest period, allowing for regrowth of leaf area lost to grazing and replenishment of stored carbohydrates that were utilized to fuel regrowth. When producers shift from continuous grazing to a rotational system, they often see dramatic improvements in pasture productivity, soil health and even animal behavior.

One of the primary advantages of rotational grazing is enhanced pasture productivity. When animals graze one paddock at a time and then move on, the plants in the grazed paddock have a chance to rebound. During this rest period, forage plants can restore their carbohydrate reserves and recover more completely from being grazed. This not only boosts the quantity of forage available over time but also maintains better and more consistent nutritional quality. In contrast, continuous grazing—where livestock stay in the same pasture all season—often leads to overgrazing, weaker plants that are more susceptible to stresses and progressively lower yields.

Improved nutrient distribution is another significant plus. Rotating animals means they spread manure evenly around the paddocks rather than depositing it heavily in just a few favorite areas (like watering or resting spots). Because manure is a natural fertilizer, more uniform distribution helps replenish the soil and encourages consistent plant growth. A continuous grazing system, on the other hand, may result in “hot spots” of manure accumulation. This concentrated nutrient load can negatively impact both plant growth and the environment around those areas.

A well-managed rotational grazing system also offers increased drought tolerance. With planned rest periods, plants develop deeper, stronger root systems. These robust roots allow the plants to access water further below the surface, which can be crucial during dry spells. In a continuously grazed pasture, plants rarely get the downtime they need to fully recover, leaving them more vulnerable to stress when rainfall is scarce. As a result, fields under rotational management often grow longer into drought periods and recover faster when conditions improve.

Another practical benefit of rotational stocking is easier animal handling. When paddocks are set up with well-designed lanes and strategically placed water sources, moving livestock becomes more straightforward. In addition, more frequent contact with animals allows livestock to associate human interaction with something positive...fresh grass. This greatly reduces the stress and chaos commonly associated with animal handling in open pastures. Properly placed lanes can also help control erosion, ensuring that foot traffic and machinery movement do not damage sensitive areas of the pasture.

Rotational stocking can be a game-changer for anyone looking to optimize pasture health and livestock performance. By giving plants time to recover, distributing nutrients more evenly, building drought resilience and streamlining animal handling, rotational grazing can deliver long-lasting improvements to farm operations. Whether you're raising cattle, sheep, goats or other grazing animals, this strategy can help you optimize productivity and at the same time protect land and water resources for future generations.

Contact your local Magoffin County Extension office for more information on how to maintain healthy pastures.

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MAGOFFIN COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

KENTUCKY  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

UK MARTIN GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT
KSU COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, HEALTH, AND NATURAL RESOURCES

HOOKED ON NATURE DAY CAMP

CALL
606-349-1236
AND REGISTER
TODAY!

JUNE 17-20, 2025

9 AM- 2 PM DAILY

K-3 JUNE 17, 19, 20

4-6 JUNE 18, 19, 20

DAY CAMP HIGHLIGHTS:

- FREE DAY CAMP FOR KIDS IN GRADES K-6TH
- Volunteer Opportunity for Teens
- Arts and Crafts
- Master the art of casting
- Mobile Science Center
- Special Guest from the Kentucky Reptile Zoo



**JOIN US AT THE MAGOFFIN COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE FOR
DAY CAMP! CALL 606-349-1236 FOR MORE
INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER**

15 Rockhouse Fork Rd
Salyersville, KY 41465



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Lexington, KY 40506



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Periodical Cicadas Emerge Across Kentucky This Spring: How to Protect Your Trees and Shrubs

Source: Jonathan Larson, entomology extension associate

Kentucky will be the epicenter for the emergence of Brood XIV of 17-year periodical cicadas this spring. Periodical cicadas have appeared in Western Kentucky counties over the past few years, but the largest emergence area for 2025 will occur across most of Central and Eastern Kentucky.

While these time-keeping, red-eyed insects are not harmful to humans or pets, their egg-laying habits could damage the branches of young trees and shrubs. Tree netting is the most effective, non-invasive way to protect your landscaping and fruit trees.

The 17-year periodical cicadas are expected to emerge from the soil to molt into their flying, adult form in late April to early May, when the soil warms to the mid-60s. Periodical cicadas emerge much earlier than annual cicadas and in greater numbers.

Cicadas do not bite or sting, and the feeding habits of the adults do not damage plants. Some may find the abundance of molted shells and loud, near deafening singing a nuisance, while others will enjoy this pageantry of nature. The periodical cicadas' choral song, however, is a cue to protect landscaping and orchards.

Female cicadas will lay their eggs into the new, lower branches of several species after mating: apple, arborvitae, ash, beech, berry and grape vines, crab apple, cherry, dogwood, hickory, holly, maple, lilacs, magnolia, oak, peach, pear, rose bushes, spirea and willows are the most likely targets.

The cicada's ovipositor is long and sharp, and they will inject 200 to 600 eggs into the stem tissue. This "flagging" may cause the tender branches to snap. The fallen branch makes for a much shorter journey for the hatching nymphs from egg to soil but is not beneficial for the growing tree. Once the eggs hatch, the nymphs will feed on root sap, and a heavy population of nymphs in the soil may also impact the tree's root system.

While using insecticides may be less costly, the safest and most effective way to prevent tree and shrub damage is by using cicada netting, which prevents females from laying their eggs. Netting is suggested for use on new and smaller trees and should be installed when the cicadas begin to sing, about mid-May for most of the area. Trees that are established in the landscape—too tall to net for most people—will grow throughout the egg-laying period.



More information can be found at the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment publication here: <https://entomology.ca.uky.edu/ef446>. You can also contact your local Magoffin County Extension office for more information on protecting trees and shrubs from cicadas.



UK Cooperative
Extension Service

YOUTH 4-H LIVESTOCK CLUB



Call
(606) 349-1236
to Register!
7th-10th Grade

Wednesday
July 23rd
10 am- 2 pm

Join us if you are
interested in
livestock,
vet science, or
livestock judging

At the Magoffin County
Extension Office
15 Rockhouse Fork Rd
Salersville, KY 41465

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Lexington, KY 40506



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Magoffin County Farmer's Market GRAND OPENING

**TUESDAY
JULY 8TH**

3 PM- 6 PM

241 WEST MAPLE STREET
SALYERSVILLE, KY 41465

- ✓ FRESH PRODUCTS
- ✓ LOCALLY MADE CRAFTS
- ✓ LOCALLY GROWN PRODUCE



For more information call the
Magoffin County Extension
Office at
(606) 349-3216



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Container Gardening Can Turn Small Spaces Into Great Gardens

Source: Source: Rick Durham, Department of Horticulture professor

Container gardening turns even the smallest balcony or stoop into a pocket-sized farm. If you rent an apartment, battle heavy clay soil, or just prefer vegetables closer to the kitchen door, planting in pots lets you sidestep many headaches that come with traditional plots. The method also works for those with limited mobility as containers can sit on a sturdy table or a rolling platform, bringing those veggies up where bending and kneeling are not required.

Pots let you match each crop to its favorite microclimate. A lettuce tub can chill in afternoon shade, while an eggplant basks beside a sun-soaked brick wall that stores extra heat. Moving crops from ground to container now and then even plays a role in crop rotation; shifting soil out of the disease cycle keeps problems such as wilt or root rot from getting a foothold.

Almost any vegetable will grow this way, yet leafy greens, herbs, bush beans, peppers, and cherry tomatoes shine. Plant breeders have created compact “patio” versions that load fruit on short stems. One large pot can hold a cherry tomato, another supports a dwarf pepper, and a shallow tray brims with spinach. Remember that every plant sharing a container must enjoy the same amount of sunlight and moisture, or one partner will suffer.

The container itself matters less than drainage, volume, and weight. Clay and wooden pots breathe, so roots rarely drown, though you’ll water more often on hot days. Plastic, metal, or glazed ceramic hang onto moisture longer, which is handy during vacations but demands restraint with the hose. No matter the material, drill or punch several quarter-inch holes near the bottom and raise the base on bricks or pot feet so extra water can escape. Dark, pint-sized pots heat up fast; keep them out of relentless sun unless you’re growing chilies that adore warm roots.

Fill your vessel with fresh soilless mix, not ground soil. The bagged blend of peat or coir, vermiculite, and compost stays light, resists compaction, and comes free of weeds. Moisten it the day before planting; dry peat sloughs off water at first, so give it time to drink. Mix a slow-release fertilizer into the top few inches or plan to feed weekly with a half-strength liquid fertilizer once seedlings sport their second set of leaves.

Tall or vining crops need backup from the start. Slide a tomato cage, bamboo stakes, or a small trellis into place at planting so roots remain undisturbed later. On a windy balcony, lash cages to the railing or slip the container inside a larger, heavier planter for ballast.

Check moisture by sticking a finger two knuckles deep; water only when the mix feels dry. Soak until you see water run from the holes, then empty saucers so roots don’t sit in a swamp. During blistering weather, move pots to temporary shade or cluster them together where foliage casts mutual cover.

When lettuce bolts or beans finish, pull the spent plants, toss the used mix onto a compost heap or garden bed, scrub the container with a 10% bleach solution, and start planning the next round. With a small stash of pots, fresh mix, and a bit of attention, you’ll harvest salads, salsas, and stir-fry ingredients right outside the back door—no backyard required.

Contact your local Magoffin County Extension office for more information on creating great container gardens.



If you are interested in
joining us for Farm Tour
at Eckert's Orchard in
Versailles on June 27th

Please Call the
Extension Office at
606-349-1236 to register-
Space is limited.

Blackberry Coffee Cake

1 cup all-purpose flour	1/3 cup margarine	2 eggs
1 cup whole wheat flour	1/3 cup applesauce	1 teaspoon vanilla
1 1/2 cups white sugar	1/2 teaspoon cinnamon	2/3 cup 1% milk
2 teaspoons baking powder	2 tablespoons brown sugar	2 cups blackberries, washed
1 teaspoon salt		

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. **Grease** and **flour** a 9-by-13- inch baking pan. In a large bowl, **combine** flours, sugar, baking powder and salt. Using a pastry blender, cut margarine and applesauce into the mixture until it resembles coarse crumbs. **Stir** in the cinnamon and brown sugar. **Set aside** 3/4 cup of crumb mixture to be used as a topping for the cake. In a medium bowl, **mix** together eggs, vanilla and milk. **Blend** into remaining flour mixture. **Spread** batter into prepared pan. **Sprinkle** blackberries evenly over the

batter. Gently **press** blackberries into the batter. **Sprinkle** reserved crumb mixture over fruit and gently pat down. **Bake** in preheated oven for 25-30 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the center of the cake comes out clean.

Yield: 15 servings.

Nutritional Analysis: 170 calories, 5 g fat, 1 g saturated fat, 1 g trans fat, 30 mg cholesterol, 280 mg sodium, 32 g carbohydrate, 2 g fiber, 18 g sugars, 3 g protein.

