



Martin-Gatton

College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment

JANUARY/ FEBRUARY 2024

# Agriculture & Natural Resources Newsletter

Magoffin County

15 Rockhouse Fork Rd

Salyersville, KY 41465

(606) 349-1236

magoffin.ca.uky.edu

Cooperative Extension Service  
**PRESENTS**  
**4-H CAMP**  
**"UNDER THE BIG TOP"**

BE THE STAR OF THE SHOW  
Rowan Morgan  
June 4-7, 2024  
Magoffin Menifee



*Kristen Stumbo*  
Kristen Stumbo

County Extension Agent for  
Agriculture & Natural  
Resources

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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# I Have This Farm, Now What?

Forsythe, M. "I Have This Farm, Now What?" Economic and Policy Update (22):7, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Kentucky, July 29th, 2022.

What do I do with the farm I just bought? Although this sounds like a question that should be asked before you buy the farm, there may be circumstances that cause you to acquire a farm before deciding what to do with it. You may decide you want to move your family out of the city to a rural area so you buy a house and a small farm. You might inherit a farm from a family member and you do not know anything about farming. No matter the circumstance, deciding what to do with the farm requires careful consideration. In this article, we will look at several decisions that need to be made when purchasing or inheriting a farm.

What are my goals with this farm? Do I want to rent the farm out to another local farmer? Do I want to farm it myself? If you choose to rent the farm out, you need to decide whom you want to rent your farm to and whether you want to cash rent it or share crop rent it. Once these decisions are made, you and the farmer will need to sit down and come up with a rental agreement (preferably written down) that both of you can agree upon. Deciding to farm the land yourself will lead to other important decisions.

One of these decisions would be what type of farming you want to do. Regardless of your answer to this question, you will need to make sure you have the right infrastructure for the type of farming you choose. If you choose to raise livestock, you will need to make sure there are suitable fences, barns, and handling facilities for the type of livestock you plan to raise. If you want to be a crop farmer, you will need to make sure there are good storage facilities or reasonable access to storage facilities for crops.



You will also need to study what type of markets are available for your product and the distance from the farm to those markets. If there are multiple markets, you will need to determine which one fits your needs the best. In some cases, there may be no local markets for your production. In this case, you may have to go into a different type of farming. If you are willing to take a risk, you may also choose to either start-up or help organize a local market for your product. In livestock farming and specialty crop farming, there are more and more farmers trying to sell their product directly to the consumer on the farm or through a local marketing system.

Another important decision to make would be what type of equipment you will need for your farm. If you do not already have access to any equipment, this can quickly become a very expensive investment. You may need to look at buying the bare minimum equipment at first, while hiring someone else to complete other tasks for you, such as planting and spraying grain crops. Another option that may be beneficial would be leasing equipment instead of buying all of it.

# I Have This Farm, Now What?

## Continued...

There are many other critical decisions that need to be made before you decide to farm your newly purchased land. Finding the right lender and tax accountant for your operation is extremely important. There are all types of lending institutions, but you need to find one that is very familiar with agriculture because they may not understand your needs if they are not familiar with it. This is the same story with accountants. There are some very specific tax rules that farmers have to deal with that other businesses do not. Finding a tax accountant that is familiar with those rules can sometimes save some costly tax errors. Nobody likes paying taxes, but you could cause yourself to pay a lot higher tax bill if you choose an accountant who is not familiar with farming.

One final, often overlooked, decision you need to make is one involving record keeping. This is an area that many farmers fail in because they do not like “doing bookwork”. Without proper records, you will not be able to determine what type of profit, if any, the farm is making. This may also cause problems when trying to get financing or tax preparation because it will take the lender and accountant a lot more time on your operation if you do not provide them with proper records. There are many different accounting software products available for personal use. You just need to decide which one best fits your needs and then actually use it the way it is intended to be used.

Regardless of your situation, it is extremely important to examine these decisions among many others before you decide whether you want to farm. It is also very important to seek advice from others that have more knowledge on a topic than you may have. You may also consider developing a written business plan. There are business advisory centers, like the Kentucky Center for Ag and Rural Development (KCARD) that can help you create a business plan.

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## Forage Timely Tips: January

Source: Kentucky Forage News

- Continue strip-grazing of stockpiled tall fescue for maximum utilization.
- Remove animals from very wet pastures to limit pugging and soil compaction.
- Feed best hay to animals with highest nutritional needs.
- Supplement poor quality hay as indicated by forage testing.
- Feed hay in areas where mud is less of a problem.
- Feed hay in poor pastures to increase soil fertility and enhance organic matter.
- Consider “bale grazing” - set out hay when the ground is dry or frozen. Use temporary fencing to allocate bales as needed.
- Use variety trial results to select seed for spring renovation.
- Prepare for pasture renovation by purchasing seeds, inoculant, etc. and getting equipment ready.



# 2023 East Kentucky Hay Contest

As part of the 2023 East Kentucky Annual Hay Contest, free hay/haylage sampling is available through the Magoffin County Ag & Natural Resources program in conjunction with UK Ag Extension Forages specialists. Results from the testing provided farmers with the nutritional value of hay and haylage, rations, and can result in reduced feed costs, increased animal performance, and information to improve forage stands.

Seventeen counties participated in the East Kentucky Hay Contest. We had 372 hay samples entered in the contest. Magoffin County had 4 famers participate in the contest. Magoffin County had two winners in the mixed hay category. Thomas Green placed second with his hay sample and said that he couldn't have done it without help from Nick Stephens. Edison McCarty placed third. Congratulations to Thomas Green and Edison McCarty!

If you are interested in competing in the hay contest next year, keep an eye out to sign up in August/ September. *Thank you* to those of you that entered the contest this year, I enjoyed getting to see your farms and get to know you all a little better. I look forward to next year!



Thomas Green pictured with his second place ribbon for mixed hay.



Edison McCarty pictured with his third place ribbon for mixed hay.

## Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources  
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# The 2023-2024 Winter Outlook for Kentucky

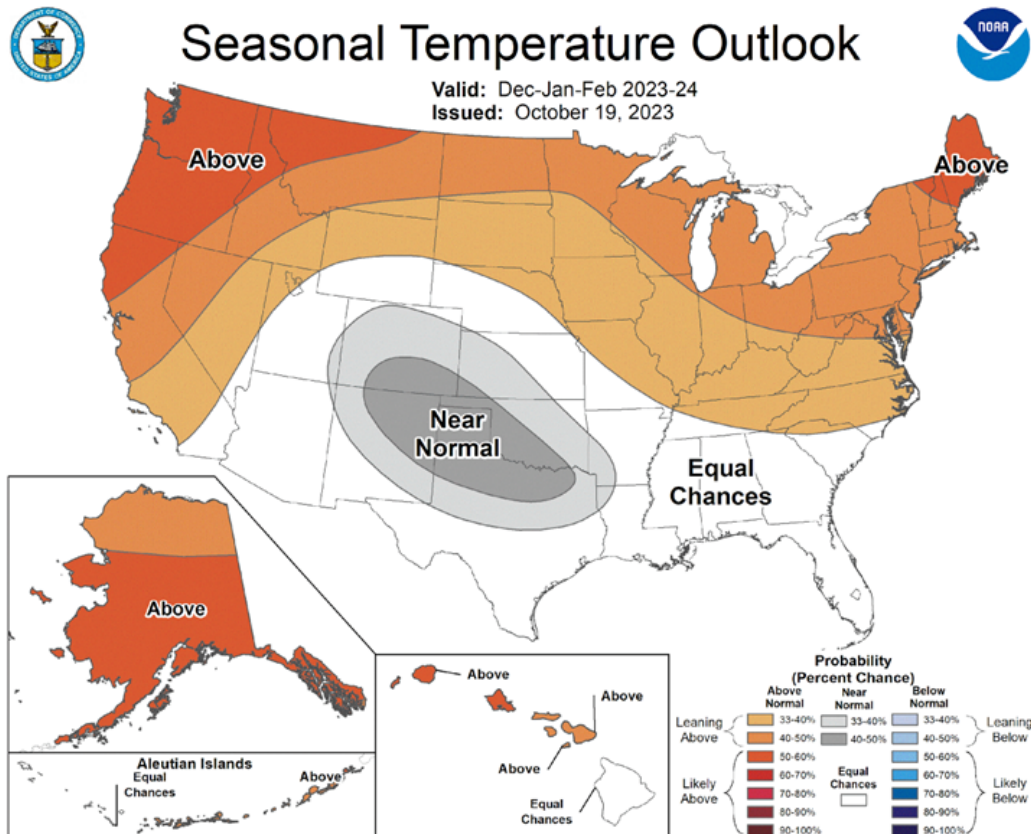


Derrick Snyder – National Weather Service, Paducah, KY

As the leaves change colors and fall to the ground, crops are harvested, and tendrils of frost form on plants, conversation often turns to what the coming winter will bring. As we have seen, winter in Kentucky can bring a bit of everything, from ice and snow, to flooding, to bitter cold - even severe weather. Given how variable the weather during the winter can be, is it possible to predict what will happen? Many of us have heard homespun wisdom about ways to predict what an upcoming winter will bring. Some of the more popular ones include how dark the hair of a wooly worm is in the fall, the shape of the seed inside of a persimmon, and counting the number of morning fogs in August. Unfortunately, these tales are not necessarily based in truth. The National Weather Service has a division called the Climate Prediction Center (CPC). The climatologists use historical data and pattern recognition, along with latest trends and observations, to predict a seasonal outlook. This past month, CPC just issued the outlook for the upcoming 2023/2024 Winter Season. So how does it shake out?

The winter outlook compiled by CPC covers the months of December, January, and February. It is not possible to give a day by day forecast of what will happen, but it is possible to forecast whether a region will see a greater chance of above-, below-, or near-normal temperatures and precipitation (rain and melted snow and ice). If there is not a strong signal either way, the outlook will say that a region will have an equal chance of seeing above-, below-, or near-normal temperatures and precipitation. It is important to remember that these outlooks cover a three-month period. Periods of cold weather can occur when above-normal temperatures are favored, and the opposite can happen when below-normal temperatures are favored. The same rule also applies for precipitation.

This year, the United States is entering into a strong El Niño pattern. During El Niño, trade winds weaken in the Pacific Ocean. Warm water is pushed back east, toward the west coast of the Americas.





El Niño means Little Boy in Spanish. South American fishermen first noticed periods of unusually warm water in the Pacific Ocean in the 1600s. The full name they used was El Niño de Navidad, because El Niño typically peaks around December.

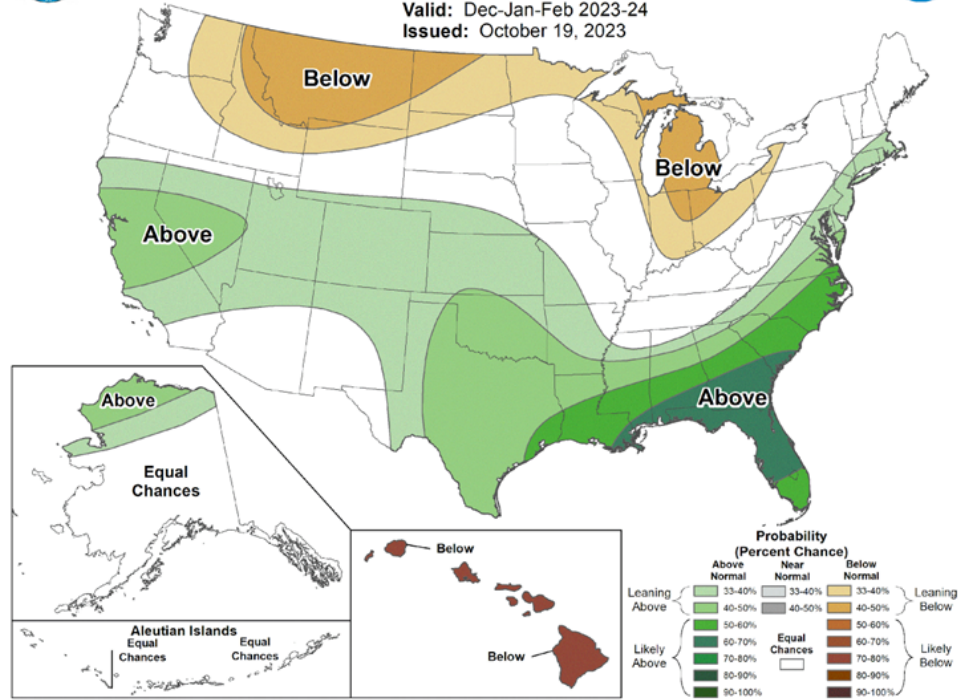
El Niño can affect our weather significantly. The warmer waters cause the Pacific jet stream to move south of its neutral position. With this shift, areas in the northern U.S. and Canada are dryer and warmer than usual. But in the U.S. Gulf Coast and Southeast, these periods are wetter than usual and have increased flooding.

In Kentucky, the outlook for this winter slightly favors above-normal temperatures across the entire state. For precipitation, the great majority of the state has an equal chance of seeing above-, below-, or near-normal precipitation. However, across far northern Kentucky, the outlook does slightly favor below-normal precipitation amounts. How will this end up playing out over the winter? We shall have to wait and see!



## Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: Dec-Jan-Feb 2023-24  
Issued: October 19, 2023



## Eastern Kentucky Farmer Conference 2024

**Registration is open!**

**Eastern Kentucky Farmer Conference**

**FEBRUARY 16TH & 17TH**

HOSTED AT THE MOREHEAD CONFERENCE CENTER

Registration for the 2024 Eastern Kentucky Farmer Conference is now open.

Register at <https://form.jotform.com/232974331873160>

Please note that overnight lodging is not included in conference registration. Blocks of rooms have been reserved at two hotels. Both are located at exit 137, about a 5-minute drive from the conference center. Ask for the Eastern KY Farmer Conference block of rooms.

Best Western Eagles Inn, \$109+tax/night. Reserve by 1/15/2024. 606-784-5796

Hampton Inn, \$109+tax/night. Reserve by 1/31/2024. 606-780-0601

Conference Agenda to be announced soon.



# Upcoming Programming

## February

- Strategies to Reduce Fertilizer use on Eastern KY Farms (See Flyer on Page 11)
- Feb. 29th- Beef Quality & Care Assurance  
5:30pm @ Magoffin County Extension Office

## March

- March 5th- Maple Syrup Basics  
5:30pm @ Magoffin County Extension Office
- March 7th- Safe Cattle Handling  
5:30pm @ Magoffin County Extension Office
- March 21st- Beekeeping for Beginners  
5:30pm @ Magoffin County Extension Office
- March 28th- Backyard Poultry  
5:30pm @ Magoffin County Extension Office

These  
Programs  
will qualify  
for  
CAIP  
Education

Coming soon:  
Fruit Tree Grafting Class



# What is Grow Appalachia?

Grow Appalachia Garden Grants seeks to impact food insecurity in central Appalachia by helping as many Appalachian families grow as much of their own food as possible through grantmaking to non-profits throughout the region.

Grow Appalachia partners with non-profit organizations throughout central Appalachia to administer a Grow Appalachia gardening program at the local level—delivering organic production resources and technical assistance through a hired partner site coordinator so that families truly have all they need to grow their own food.

Since 2010, Grow Appalachia has partnered with more than 60 non-profits in central Appalachia who have worked with over 6,000 families to grow 4 million pounds of organic food for themselves and their families.

Last year, Magoffin County Grow Appalachia Participants harvested 36,234 pounds of produce and shared 3,027 pounds with the community.

This program is for new gardeners and seasoned gardeners alike. We invite you to apply for this program if you are interested in learning new gardening techniques and gaining the tools and knowledge needed to have a successful garden. We will meet once a month to discuss topics like how to plan your garden, pests, and even canning. There is no garden size required, we welcome you to this program if you are growing in five gallon buckets, square foot gardens, or even a few high tunnels.

Thank you to those who helped make last years program a success, and I am looking forward to another great growing season this year! **Please fill out the application on the next page and return it to the extension office by March 1st.**



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Magoffin County Extension Office

Grow Appalachia Application

**Due March 1st**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

How many people are in your household? \_\_\_\_\_ Adults and \_\_\_\_\_ Children

Why are you interested in applying with Grow Appalachia? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Garden Size in Square Feet (approximate): \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Garden: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Market \_\_\_\_\_ Community \_\_\_\_\_

What experience do you have gardening? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to sell produce at market? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

How many years (not counting this year) have you participated in the Grow Appalachia Program? \_\_\_\_\_

What do you hope to do with your produce in the coming year? (Circle all that Apply)

Eat / Sell / Preserve / Giveaway

Would you agree to attending at least 6 Grow Appalachia classes? \_\_\_\_\_

Grow Appalachia requires submission of a monthly harvest log, are you willing to track and submit your harvests if given the necessary tools? \_\_\_\_\_

What do you hope to learn from this gardening program? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Receipt No. \_\_\_\_\_

# 2024 Plant Order Form

## Cooperative Extension Service

Magoffin County

15 Rockhouse Fork Road

P.O. Box 349

Salyersville, KY 41465

(606) 349-1236

### Purchaser Information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity	Item	Unit Price	Total
_____ bundles	Strawberries (Allstar) (June bearing—larger berry)	\$6.50 (bundle of 25)	
_____ bundles	Strawberries (Earliglow) (June bearing—smaller, sweeter berry)	\$6.50 (bundle of 25)	
	Blackberries (Natchez)	\$4 each	
	Blueberries (Duke) (two varieties needed for pollination)	\$9 each	
	Blueberries (Chandler) (two varieties needed for pollination)	\$9 each	
	Raspberries (Prelude) - bare root	\$4 each	
	Jewel Black Raspberries	\$4 each	
	Asparagus (Millennium)	\$1 each	
_____ bundles	Onion plants (Candy)	\$5 (bundle of 60)	

**Pre-payment is required by Tuesday, March 12, for all plant orders.  
Make checks payable to: MC ext non-tax fund**

### Payment Information:

Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

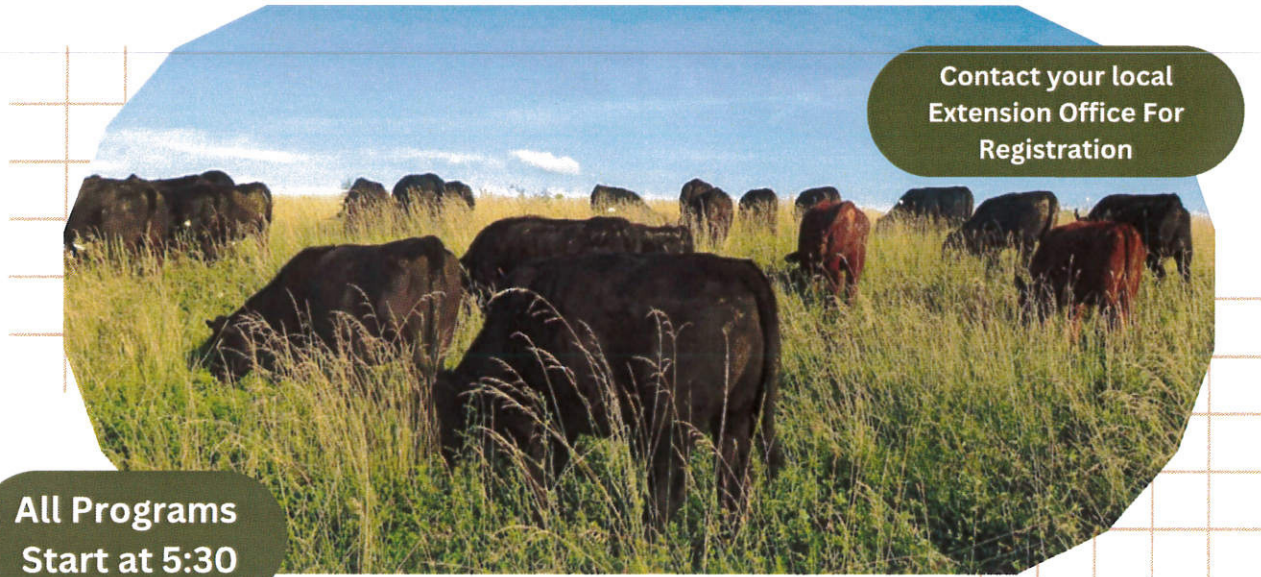
Received by: \_\_\_\_\_

Check No.: \_\_\_\_\_ or Cash \_\_\_\_\_

*Plants are expected to ship from the nursery during the first full week of April. We will give you a call to let you know when the plants will be available for pickup.*



# STRATEGIES TO REDUCE FERTILIZER USE ON EASTERN KY CATTLE FARMS



Contact your local  
Extension Office For  
Registration

All Programs  
Start at 5:30

- Using Legumes to get the Nitrogen Cycle Working
  - Feeding Hay to Recycle Nutrients
  - Clipping Weeds to Enhance Fertility
  - Having an Appropriate Stocking Rate
- Implementing Basic Rotational Grazing Without Perfect Infrastructure

## Locations and Dates:

**Feb. 19, 2024** Clay County Extension Excel Center 86 Muddy Gap Rd., Manchester, Ky 40962

**Feb. 20, 2024** Knott County Extension 149 Parks. Rd. Hindman, Ky 41822

**Feb 21, 2024** Lee County Extension 259 Industrial Park Rd. Beattyville, Ky 41311

**Feb. 22, 2024** Morehead State University Farm 25 MSU Farm Rd. Morehead, Ky 40351

**Guest Speaker: Dr. Greg Halich,**

**Associate Extension Professor with the Department of Agriculture Economics  
University of Kentucky**

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## Smashed Potatoes

<b>6</b> large baking potatoes	<b>6 ounces</b> fresh spinach	<b>1 cup</b> 2% Cheddar cheese, shredded
Cooking spray	<b>1 tablespoon</b> canola oil	
<b>1½ cups</b> sliced, fresh mushrooms	<b>2 teaspoons</b> Dijon mustard	<b>½ teaspoon</b> salt
<b>4</b> green onions, thinly sliced	<b>¾ cup</b> light sour cream	<b>½ teaspoon</b> black pepper

**Preheat** oven to 400 degrees F. **Wash** and dry potatoes. **Spray** the skins with cooking spray and **pierce** potatoes in several places with a fork. **Place** on a 13- by-18-inch baking sheet. **Bake** until tender, about 1 hour. **Wash** mushrooms, green onions and spinach. **Heat** oil in a skillet over medium-high heat. **Add** mushrooms and **sauté** for 6 minutes. **Add** the green onions and fresh spinach, **sauté** for 1 minute. **Slice** off the top inch of each potato, leaving a ¼ inch border around the edge. **Scoop** out the flesh into a mixing

bowl and **mash**. **Add** mushroom mixture, Dijon mustard, sour cream and ½ cup cheese. **Mix** well and season with salt and pepper. **Scoop** mixture into potato shells and **sprinkle** with the remaining cheese. **Return** the potatoes to the baking sheet and **bake** until heated through and golden brown on top, about 20-25 minutes.

**Yield:** 6 servings

**Nutritional Analysis:** 410 calories, 9 g fat, 4.5 g saturated fat, 20 mg cholesterol, 400 mg sodium, 70 g carbohydrate, 9 g fiber, 4 g sugars, 15 g protein.



Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers' market, or roadside stand.