

# Spencer County Agriculture & Horticulture Newsletter



## Cooperative Extension Service

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December 2025

It seems just like a couple of weeks ago that I was writing my January newsletter and here we are, on the verge of 2025 being complete.

The holiday season is one in which I like to do some reflection on, including gathering with my family and friends through the years, many of whom are gone now. I sit back and remember the good times that we always had when we would gather for our Christmas meals and gifts.

I hope you have many more memories after this year's holidays.

As always, feel free to call or email me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Bryce Roberts,  
Spencer County Extension Agent for  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

## More Information

As always, if you need more information, feel free to **call me** at 477-2217.

You can also **email me** at [broberts@uky.edu](mailto:broberts@uky.edu) or you can **visit my website** to view archived newsletters and news articles. The web address is: [www.spencerextension.com](http://www.spencerextension.com)



## Soil Sample Now

This is a reminder that once your crops or gardens are finished for this year, it is a great time to sample your fields, gardens, or lawns to see what type and how much fertilizer you need to make the soil as productive as possible.

For each sample you want to submit, we need at least one pint (sandwich bag) of dry soil 4-8 inches below the soil surface. Please put your name and sample ID (north lawn, hay-field 2, etc.) on each bag. During this time of the year, the lab is not as busy as it is in the spring, so we can get your results back to you usually a few days sooner than other times during the year.

This is a free service provided by the Spencer Co. Conservation District. Thanks to them for sponsoring the soil sampling program.

Our office is open normal business hours (8 am until 4:30 pm), but you have the option to drop off your samples anytime you like.

As you pull into our parking lot, please go to the right to the back of our building. You will then see our pavilion and on the pavilion, you will see a black tub with a yellow top to the right of the double doors. Inside the tub, you will find some paperwork that you will need to fill out so that we can properly test your soil. Place the paperwork and samples back into the tub. I'll review the results and mail or email them to you in 2-3 weeks.

## 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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Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.

## **Beginning Producer Series**

Spencer, Bullitt, and Jefferson Counties are starting a new Beginning Producer Series, which will start January 27, 2026, 6 pm, at the Spencer Co. Cooperative Extension Service Office. Meal will be provided.

The first session will focus on “Beginning with the End in Mind,” which will be led by Dr. Steve Isaacs, UK Ag Economics Specialist. Steve will have a very informative and engaging presentation to kick us off. We will have other meetings in the spring as well and those will be announced at a later time.

To register, please go to <https://uky.info/SETGOALS2026> or you can scan the QR code:



## **Conservation Equipment Rental**

This is a reminder that the Spencer County Conservation District has 2 7 foot drills and a fertilizer buggy for rent. They are now housed at a new location.

B&W Rental, 58 Elk Park Road, Taylorsville, is where they are located. **YOU MUST CALL FIRST BEFORE GETTING THE EQUIPMENT.** The number is 477-RENT.

For more information on this program, you can contact Doloras at the Conservation Office at 477-1157.

## **Caring for Poinsettias**

Poinsettias, with their vibrant red and green foliage, have become synonymous with the holiday season. To ensure these festive plants thrive throughout the season and beyond, it's essential to provide them with proper care. Here are some tips to keep your poinsettias looking healthy and vibrant.

**Location Matters:** Place your poinsettia in a bright, indirect light location. Avoid direct sunlight and drafty areas. Poinsettias prefer temperatures between 60-70°F (15-21°C). Keep them away from cold windows or heat sources, such as radiators, which can cause stress to the plant.

**Watering Wisdom:** Overwatering is a common mistake. Allow the top inch of soil to dry out before watering. When watering, ensure that excess water drains away to prevent root rot. Poinsettias are sensitive to waterlogged soil, so a well-draining potting mix is crucial.

**Maintain Humidity:** Poinsettias thrive in a humid environment. Place a tray filled with water and pebbles near the plant or use a humidifier to maintain the necessary moisture levels. Dry indoor air can lead to leaf drop and diminished vibrancy in the bracts.

**Beware of Cold Drafts:** Poinsettias are native to warm climates, and exposure to cold drafts can harm them. Avoid placing them near doors or windows that may be opened frequently. Sudden temperature drops can cause the leaves to wilt and drop prematurely.

**Fertilize with Care:** During the active growth period, feed your poinsettia with a balanced, water-soluble fertilizer every 2-4 weeks. However, avoid over-fertilizing, as excessive nutrients can damage the plant.

**Prune Wisely:** If your poinsettia becomes leggy, prune it after the blooming season. Cut back the stems to encourage bushier growth. Remember to wear gloves, as the milky sap may cause skin irritation for some individuals.

By following these care tips, you can extend the beauty of your poinsettias well beyond the holiday season. With a little attention to their specific needs, these iconic plants can continue to bring joy and color to your home for months to come.





# KENTUCKY *Fruit & Vegetable Conference* 2026

BOWLING GREEN, KY | JANUARY 11-13  
SLOAN CONVENTION CENTER

## REGISTER TODAY



<https://kentuckyhorticulturecouncil.ticketspice.com/2026kyfvattendee>



For more information on the upcoming Fruit and Vegetable Conference, please scan the QR code or you can go to this link: <https://kentuckyhorticulturecouncil.ticketspice.com/2026kyfvattendee>

### **Beef Management Webinar Series**

Registration is necessary, however, if you received this email directly from Darrh Bullock, then you are already registered. If you received this from another source, or have not registered previously, then please send an email to [dbullock@uky.edu](mailto:dbullock@uky.edu) with Beef Webinar in the subject line and your name and county in the message. You will receive the direct link with a password the morning of each meeting. This invitation will directly link you to the site and you will be asked for the password which can be found just below the link. Each session will be recorded

and posted for later viewing. All meeting times are 8:00pm ET/7:00pm CT

**December 11, 2025:** Shooting the Bull: Answering all your Beef Related Questions! – Updates and Roundtable discussion with UK Specialists

**January 8, 2026:** Making the Most of the Good Years: Profits, Reinvestment, and Tax Management in Beef Cattle Operations – Jonathan Shepherd, Agricultural Extension Specialist, University of Kentucky

**February 12, 2026:** Impact of Bull Nutrition During Development on Semen Quality – Pedro Fontes, Associate Professor, University of Georgia

**March 12, 2026:** Bull Selection Practices in Kentucky: What are we Doing Right and What Could we Improve! – Darrh Bullock



## Country Ham and Broccoli Grits

**1 tablespoon** olive oil  
**1 pound** fresh broccoli florets  
**½ cup** minced onion  
**¾ teaspoon** crushed red pepper flakes

**2 cloves** minced garlic  
**4 cups** 1% milk  
**1 cup** uncooked quick grits  
**1 cup** 2%, shredded cheddar cheese

**6 ounces** country ham, cut into ½ inch pieces  
**1 large** egg, beaten  
Salt and pepper to taste

**1. Preheat oven** to 375°F. **Coat** 13x9x2 inch baking dish with cooking spray. **Heat** olive oil in a frying pan. **Sauté** broccoli, onion, garlic and red pepper flakes until vegetables are tender. About 5 minutes. **Set aside.**  
**2. Heat** milk to a boil in a large saucepan. Slowly, **whisk** in grits. **Reduce heat** and stir continuously until thickened. **Reserve** 2 tablespoons of the cheese.  
**3. Remove** from heat, stir in

ham, broccoli mixture, cheese, egg, salt and pepper. **Mix** until well blended. **Pour** into prepared baking dish.

**4. Sprinkle** with reserved cheese. **Bake**, uncovered for 30 minutes, or until top is set and lightly puffed.

**Yield:** 16, ½ cup servings.

**Nutritional Analysis:** 120 calories, 3.5 g fat, 1 g saturated fat, 25 mg cholesterol, 370 mg sodium, 13 g carbohydrate, 1 g fiber, 4 g sugar, 9 g protein.

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

