

Spencer County Agriculture & Horticulture Newsletter



Cooperative Extension Service

Spencer County
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January 2026

Welcome to 2026! I hope you and your family had a great holiday season. It's always great to spend time with family, especially during the holidays.

As we have turned over the calendar to a new year, I want to remind you that we have our farm recordkeeping books in stock so feel free to stop in and pick one up. It's always good to start the year off right by keeping good records and these books can help you accomplish this.

Wishing you and yours a great 2026.

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 or you can **visit my website** to view archived newsletters and news articles. The web address is: 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, hayfield 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

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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.

Beef Management Webinar Series

The Beef Webinar Series continues into 2026. If you received this from another source, or have not registered previously, then please send an email to 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

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

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Staying Safe During the Winter Season

Derrick Snyder – National Weather Service Paducah, KY



The calendar has turned to December, but Old Man Winter is already making his presence known across the Commonwealth! With more harsh winter weather and bitter cold temperatures likely on the way in the coming months, now is a great time to ensure you and your family are prepared to face the elements.

Here are tips to stay safe outside when temperatures turn cold:

- Stay dry, and if your clothes do get wet, change into dry clothing as soon as possible. Wet clothing will cool your body very quickly.
- The colder the temperatures, the more layers of clothing to wear. Wool clothing is particularly good at keeping you warm because its fibers trap pockets of warm air near your skin. This also helps wick moisture away from your skin ensuring you stay dry.
- Make sure your head and hands are covered. Half of your body's heat loss is through your head if it is left uncovered. Mittens hold heat around your hands better than gloves do. Wear a scarf to protect your face and to keep cold air from hurting your lungs.

Keeping warm inside is just as important as staying warm outdoors. Many people heat their homes with alternative sources during periods of extremely cold temperatures. While these heat sources can keep you warm, they can be dangerous as well. Follow these steps to ensure you and your family stay warm and safe:

- Generators and fuel should always be used outdoors and at least 20 feet away from windows, doors and attached garages.
- Prioritize safety by choosing a propane heater specifically designed for indoor use, ensuring proper ventilation, and keeping the heater away from flammable materials.
- Install working carbon monoxide detectors on every level of your home. Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas that can kill you, your family and pets.
- Keep the generator dry and protected from rain or flooding. Touching a wet generator or devices connected to one can cause electrical shock.
- Always connect the generator to appliances with heavy-duty extension cords.
- Let the generator or heater cool before refueling. Fuel spilled on hot engine parts can ignite.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully!

Indoor Winter Safety Tips

Home fires are common this time of year as people are trying to stay warm.



HEAT SOURCES:

When using a fireplace, wood stove, portable heaters or generators - Use safeguards and properly ventilate. Use certified heaters that have safety features (auto off). Never leave unattended. Place heaters on a nonflammable level surface. Keep combustible materials at least 3 ft. away from heaters. If using a gas furnace, make sure vents are not blocked by snow.



SAFETY FIRST!

Install/maintain smoke detectors – many fires are caused by alternate heat sources. Use carbon monoxide detectors.



EXTREME COLD TIPS:

Allow faucets to slowly drip and open kitchen/bathroom cabinet doors to help circulate warmer air to prevent pipes from freezing. Know where and how to turn shut off main water supply in case of ruptured pipe.



IF YOU DON'T HAVE HEAT:

Wear layers of loose-fitting, lightweight warm clothing. Close off unneeded rooms. Stuff towels in cracks under doors. Cover windows to keep heat in.



National Weather Service Paducah Kentucky





Herbed Pasta with Roasted Cherry Tomatoes

½ pound whole wheat pasta	4 chopped garlic cloves	2 teaspoons dried oregano
3 tablespoons olive oil	1 medium chopped red bell pepper	1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley
1 pint cherry tomatoes	6 tablespoons chopped fresh basil	½ teaspoon salt
1 medium chopped onion	1 teaspoon dried thyme	1 teaspoon red pepper flakes (optional)

- 1. Cook** pasta according to package.
- 2. Preheat** oven to 400°F.
- 3. Score** each of the cherry tomatoes with a small X. **Toss** the tomatoes with 1 tablespoon olive oil and **roast** in oven for 10-15 minutes, until they burst.
- 4. Sauté** onion in 2 tablespoons olive oil for 5 minutes.
- 5. Add** garlic and red bell peppers. **Sauté** for an additional 5 minutes.
- 6. Add** fresh and dried herbs, salt and oven roasted cherry tomatoes.
- 7. Toss** with drained pasta.

Yield: 6, 1 cup servings.

Nutrition Analysis: 230 calories, 8 g fat, 1 g saturated fat, 0 mg cholesterol, 210 mg sodium, 35 g carbohydrate, 5 g fiber, 5 g sugar, 6 g protein.

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

