



The Robertson County Extension Office
will be closed on the following days:

May 26th—Memorial Day

June 19th—Juneteenth Holiday

July 4th—Independence Day

Robertson
County
Agriculture &
Natural
Resources
Newsletter
June 2025

Spring Tornado Safety

By Christine Aiena- National Weather Service, Wilmington, Ohio

Did you know that the United States experiences more tornadoes annually than any other country in the world? On average, 1,200 tornadoes occur each year in the United States. Additionally, tornadoes can occur and have been reported in all 50 states!

Most tornadoes have damage paths under one mile in length and wind speeds less than 100 MPH, however, sometimes tornadoes do become large and especially violent, with wind speeds approaching 200 MPH and damage paths tens of miles. The Tri-State tornado in March of 1925 holds the record not only for longest path (roughly 243 miles), but also for most deaths, with 695 fatalities. This tornado moved through Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana producing extreme damage.

Springtime is typically considered “peak tornado season.” And while the majority of tornadoes are reported between 3PM and 10PM, it is important to remember that tornadoes can occur at any time of year, and any time of the day, daytime or night! Nighttime tornadoes are particularly dangerous, as they are difficult to see and most people are sleeping.

What can you do to plan for a tornado in your area? How can you stay safe?

Before a Tornado:

- Talk about severe weather and tornadoes with your family. Develop and practice a family emergency plan that includes a predetermined place to take shelter during a tornado (basements are the best option, followed by interior rooms with no windows) as well as a location to meet after a disaster, if your family happens to get separated. Don't forget pets!
- When a Tornado Watch is issued, practice your emergency plan and check your safety supplies.
- Increase your situational awareness by monitoring the weather, including listening to a NOAA Weather Radio.
- Learn the signs of a tornado: a rotating, funnel-shaped cloud, debris falling, large hail, or a loud roar like a freight train.
- Flying debris can pose a great danger during tornadoes, so store protective coverings like helmets, sleeping bags, or thick blankets in or near your shelter space.
- If you are in a mobile/manufactured home: GET OUT! Go to a neighbor's house, underground shelter, or a nearby permanent structure. Most tornadoes can destroy even tied-down mobile/manufactured homes.

During a Tornado:

- If a Tornado Warning is issued for your area or you see a tornado, get to your safe space immediately!!!! If you have a bicycle helmet, put it on to protect your head and neck.
- In a building with a basement: Avoid windows and try to get under some type of sturdy object, like a heavy table or workbench. Bathtubs can also offer partial protection. Cover yourself with a thick blanket, sleeping bag, or mattress. Crouch as low to the floor as possible, facing down. Know where heavy objects typically rest on the floor above you (refrigerators, dressers etc) as these may fall through a weakened floor and crush you.
- In a building without a basement: Avoid windows, go to the lowest floor available, and get into a small interior room (like a bathroom or closet), under a stairwell, or an interior hallway. Cover yourself with a thick blanket, sleeping bag, or mattress to protect yourself against falling or flying debris.
- In a vehicle: Vehicles can be easily tossed and destroyed, so the best course of action is to either leave the vehicle for a sturdy shelter or, if the tornado is still distant, drive out of the tornado's path. However, if you're in a traffic jam and/or the tornado is bearing down on you at close range, park your vehicle on the side of the road, keep your seatbelt on, put your head down below the winds and cover your head with a blanket, coat, or cushion. If you can safely get to an area notably lower than the level of the roadway, leave your vehicle and lie in that area. AVOID going under bridges or overpasses.
- In the open outdoors or in a buggy: Find the lowest ground possible, then lie flat and facedown in that area, protecting the back of your head with your arms. Get as far away from trees, cars, or other large objects as possible.

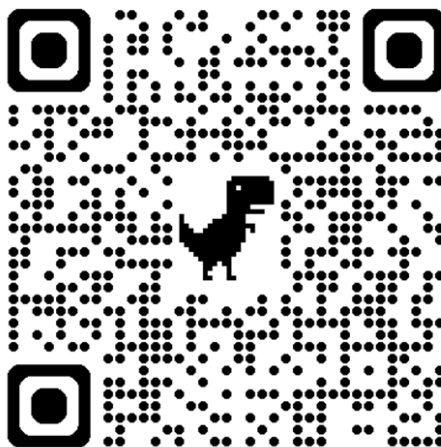
After a Tornado:

- Remain calm, alert, and keep your family together while waiting for instructions from authorities.
- Render what aid you can to anyone that is injured.
- Watch your step! Broken nails, glass, and other sharp objects may be on the ground.
- Do not enter heavily damaged homes or buildings, as they may not be structurally sound.
- Do not use matches or lighters, as there might be leaking natural gas pipes or fuel tanks nearby.



Beef Bull Selection Survey

Chance to win one of five
\$100 gift cards sponsored
by the Beef Improvement
Federation



https://corexmsd9bfwdhxbhbmw.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eFqYgoQpZMJLRLE

Kentucky Sweet Potato Bread

Ingredients:

- ¼ cup margarine
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup cooked mashed sweet potatoes
- 3 tablespoons milk
- 1 tablespoon grated orange peel
- 1 ½ cups self-rising flour
- ½ cup whole wheat flour
- ¼ teaspoon allspice
- ¼ teaspoon nutmeg
- 2 tablespoons chopped pecans

Directions:

1. In a mixing bowl, cream ¼ cup margarine and ½ cup brown sugar.
2. Add eggs and mix well.
3. Add sweet potatoes, milk, and grated orange peel; mix well.
4. In a separate bowl, mix flours, allspice, nutmeg and pecans.
5. Blend the wet and dry mixtures, stirring only until just combined.
6. Spray a 9-inch x 5-inch x 3-inch loaf pan with non-stick cooking spray.
7. Pour mixture into pan and bake at 350°F for 45 to 50 minutes.
8. When the loaf is removed from the oven, allow to cool for 10 minutes before applying glaze.

Glaze:

- 1 tablespoon margarine
- 1 tablespoon reduced fat cream cheese
- ¼ cup confectioner's sugar
- 1½ teaspoon milk
- 1½ teaspoon orange juice
- 1 teaspoon grated orange peel

1. In a small mixing bowl, mix the margarine and cream cheese.
2. Add the confectioner's sugar, milk, orange juice and orange peel. Mix well.
3. Remove loaf from pan and spread



Timely Tips—Off the Hoof

Dr. Les Anderson, Beef Extension Professor, University of Kentucky

Spring-Calving Cow Herd

- ⇒ Continue supplying a high magnesium mineral until daytime temperatures are consistently above 60 degrees F.
- ⇒ Improve or maintain body condition (BCS 5) of cows before breeding season starts. If necessary, increase energy intake even on pasture.
- ⇒ Bulls should have a breeding soundness evaluation (BSE) well before the breeding season (at least 30 days). Contact your local veterinarian to schedule a BSE for your herd sires. They should also receive their annual booster vaccinations and be dewormed. I often get questions regarding deworming and reduced fertility in bulls. Dr. Phil Prater at MSU and I examined this and found no effect of deworming on bull fertility.
- ⇒ Schedule spring “turn-out” working in late-April or early-May, i.e. at the end of calving season and before the start of breeding season. Consult with your veterinarian about vaccines and health products for your herd.

“Turn-out” working for the cow herd may include:

- Prebreeding vaccinations
- Deworming
- Replacing lost identification tags
- Sort cows into breeding groups, if using more than one bull
- Insecticide eartags (best to wait until fly population builds up)

“Turn-out” working of calves may include:

- Vaccinate for IBR-PI3, Clostridial diseases and Pinkeye
 - Dehorn, if needed (can be done with electric dehorner and fly repellent during fly season)
 - Castrate and implant male feeder calves (if not done at birth)
 - Deworm
 - Insecticide eartags
- ⇒ Consider breeding yearling replacement heifers one heat cycle (about 21 days) earlier than cows for “head-start” calving. Mate to known calving-ease bulls.
 - ⇒ Record identification of all cows and bulls in each breeding group.
 - ⇒ Begin breeding cows no later than mid-May, especially if they are on high endophyte fescue. Cows should be in good condition so that conception occurs prior to periods of extreme heat.
 - ⇒ Consider synchronizing estrus in all cows. Exposing late-calving cows and first-calf heifers to a progestin (MGA feed or CIDR device) for 7 days before bull turn out increases pregnancy rates and shortens the next calving season.
 - ⇒ Choose best pastures for grazing during the breeding season. Select those with the best stand of clover and the lowest level of the fescue endophyte, if known. Keep these pastures vegetative by grazing or clipping. High quality pastures are important for a successful breeding season.
 - ⇒ Observe breeding pastures often to see if bulls are working. Records cows’ heat dates and then check 18-21 days later, for return to heat.

Fall-Calving Herd

- ⇒ Contact your veterinarian and pregnancy diagnose the cow herd. If a large animal veterinarian is not available in your area, consider taking blood samples for pregnancy diagnosis. Remove open cows at weaning time.
- ⇒ Plan marketing program for calves. Consider various options, such as maintaining ownership and backgrounding in a grazing program, or precondition and sell in a CPH-45 feeder calf sale.
- ⇒ Initiate fly control for the cows when fly population builds up.
- ⇒ Calves may be weaned anytime now but you can take advantage of the spring grass by leaving them on the cow a while or weaning and grazing.



DATE	PROGRAM	LOCATION
JUNE 7	SMALL RUMINANT WORKSHOP 9:30 AM	2496 TAYLOR MILL RD. FLEMINGSBURG, KY 41041
JUNE 26	ELDERBERRY PRODUCTION 6:00 PM	FLEMING CO. EXT OFFICE
AUGUST 4 — AUGUST 9	GERMANTOWN FAIR	
AUGUST 14 — AUGUST 24	KENTUCKY STATE FAIR	
SEPTEMBER 4	ROBERTSON COUNTY LIVESTOCK SHOW AND SALE	ROBERTSON COUNTY AG BARN

Forage Timely Tips: May

- ⇒ Start hay harvests for quality forage. Consider making baleage to facilitate timely cutting.
- ⇒ Seed warm season grasses for supplemental summer forage once soil temperature is at 60°F
- ⇒ Clip, graze, or make hay to prevent seedhead formation.
- ⇒ Consider temporary electric fencing to subdivide larger pastures and exclude areas for mechanical harvesting.
- ⇒ Scout pastures for summer annual weeds and control when small.
- ⇒ Rotate pastures as based in height rather than time. Start grazing tall fescue at 8-10" and stop grazing at 3-4". Stop grazing orchardgrass dominant pastures at 4-5" for quicker regrowth. results to select seed for spring renovation

Soil Samples

First 10 Soil Samples are free!

\$10 deposit on soil probe

Soil bags can be picked up at the

Extension Office

↓ PLEASE REGISTER ↓

 Cooperative
Extension Service

LIMITED
SPOTS

SMALL RUMINANT WORKSHOP



JUNE 7TH, 2025



9:30 AM



**2496 TAYLOR MILL RD
FLEMINGSBURG**

SCHWARTZ
MEAT COMPANY



CAIP ELIGIBLE

TOPICS

- Hoof Trimming
- Nutrition/Parasite Control
- Shearing Demo

USE THE QR CODE OR CALL TO REGISTER

- BRACKEN COUNTY: (606) 735-2141
- FLEMING COUNTY: (606) 845-4641
- LEWIS COUNTY: (606) 796-2732
- MASON COUNTY: (606) 564-6808
- ROBERTSON CO.: (606) 724-5796

**REGISTER BY
JUNE 2ND**



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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



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Robertson County Agriculture & Natural Resources Newsletter

June 2025

**UK Cooperative
Extension Service**

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The time has rolled around once again for the busy season. Hay fields will soon be mowed, tobacco is being set, corn and soybeans are being planted, and the home gardens are ready for the season ahead. Please keep in mind that we are a resource here at the Extension Office. If there are any challenges you may run into this summer, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Samantha Saunders

Samantha Saunders
Robertson County Agriculture & Natural Resources/
4-H Youth Development Agent

Inside this edition:

- Blue Licks Farmer's Market Locations/
Dates/Times
- Important Dates
- Forage Timely Tips
- Small Ruminant Workshop
- Timely Tips—Off the Hoof
- Beef Bull Selection Survey
- Kentucky Sweet Potato Bread
- Spring Tornado Safety



**Blue Licks
FARMERS
Market**

Blue Licks Museum
Friday @ 3:00 - 7:00
Saturday @ 10:00 - 2:00

Mt. Olivet Farmer's Market Pavilion
Friday @ 9:00 - 12:00

Mt. Olivet City Park
Saturday @ 9:00 - 12:00

Opening Day:
May 23rd

Opening Days:
July 18th &
July 19th

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Disabilities
accommodated
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