

Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Expands CWD Surveillance Zone



New Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) surveillance measures are now in effect for Casey, Laurel, Lincoln, McCreary, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Russell, Wayne and Whitley counties. The Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission approved these measures at

its quarterly meeting December 5, following the detection of CWD in a deer harvested in Pulaski County this past September. Chronic Wasting Disease is an always-fatal disease caused by an abnormal protein called a prion. CWD affects animals in the deer family, including white-tailed deer and elk.

In response, the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Commission approved a CWD Surveillance Zone expansion to include the nine counties, thereby adding them to the state's existing surveillance area, which includes Ballard, Breckinridge, Calloway, Carlisle, Fulton,

Graves, Hardin, Henderson, Hickman, Marshall, McCracken, Meade, Union and Webster counties. The zone brings specific regulations to help limit the spread of the disease among deer and elk.

Key regulations now in effect:

•**Carcass transport limits:** Whole carcasses or high-risk parts from deer harvested in the zone cannot leave the counties listed above. Permitted items for transport include de-boned meat, clean skulls and teeth, antlers, hides and finished taxidermy mounts. Carcasses of deer harvested outside the zone

may be brought in.

•**Rehabilitation ban:** The rehabilitation of deer is prohibited within the surveillance zone.

•**Baiting restrictions:** Baiting is allowed in all counties within the CWD Surveillance Zone provided it is not distributed through contact feeders (e.g., troughs, funnels, and gravity feeders without spreading capabilities). A statewide prohibition of feeding is still effective from March 1 through July 31. Also, feeding and baiting is illegal on all Wildlife Management Areas. While permitted with limitations, baiting promotes unnatural congregation of deer, increasing the risk of CWD transmission through saliva,

urine and feces from infected animals. Hunters should weigh this risk before choosing to bait.

Since 2002, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources has CWD-tested more than 70,000 deer and elk from across the state. Hunters all across the state are encouraged to submit samples through CWD Sample Drop-Off sites or CWD Sample Mail-in Kits at any time during the hunting season. The test comes at no monetary cost to the hunter, and results are typically returned within 4-6 weeks.

At this time, the disease is not known to be transmissible to people, but the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention still recommends

not consuming meat from deer that test positive for the disease. Additionally, Kentucky Fish and Wildlife always recommends not consuming meat taken from animals that appear to be sick or in poor condition.

More information about CWD, the surveillance zone and the agency's response plan can be found at fw.ky.gov/cwd. For questions, or to report sick or dead deer, the public may contact the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Information Center at 800-858-1544 or at info.center@ky.gov, weekdays 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (Eastern), excluding holidays, or use the Sick or Dead Deer Online Reporting Form on the department's website.

submitted

Dangerous Poultry Virus Confirmed in KY Flock

Federal and state authorities report a confirmed case of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in a Jessamine County backyard poultry flock. Kentucky State Veterinarian Dr. Steve Velasco III said the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Veterinary Services Laboratories confirmed the presence of HPAI in samples taken from the Jessamine County premises.

HPAI is known to be deadly for domesticated chickens and turkeys. On December 6, representatives at the Jessamine County premises alerted the Kentucky Department of Agriculture of increased mortality in their flock. Testing at the University of Kentucky Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory and the USDA's National Veterinary Services Laboratories (NVSL) confirmed the presence of HPAI. After the HPAI confirmation, the KDA/OSV Division of Emergency Preparedness and Response were deployed to the premises. The affected flock is quarantined, and depopulation began on December 11.

A 10-kilometer surveillance zone around the infected premises was established. Movement restrictions have been placed on all backyard and commercial facilities in the zone to avert further spread of the disease. Those premises will be monitored through active surveillance. Any prem-



ises with birds demonstrating clinical signs of HPAI will be tested.

Avian influenza does not present a food safety risk; poultry and eggs are safe to eat when handled and cooked properly. There is no risk to the food supply, but birds from the flocks will not enter the food system. Anyone involved with poultry production from a small backyard to a large commercial producer should review their biosecurity activities to ensure the health of their birds. USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has materials about biosecurity, including videos, checklists, and a toolkit available as part of its Defend The Flock program at aphs.usda.gov.

In addition to practicing good biosecurity, all bird owners should prevent contact between their birds and wild birds. Kentucky bird owners should report sick birds or unusual bird deaths to state and federal officials, through USDA's toll-free number at 1-866-536-7593.

submitted

Kentucky Drivers Reminded to Plan Safe Rides During This Holiday Season

Team Kentucky values the safety of every driver and passenger on Kentucky roadways. In that spirit this holiday season, law enforcement across the state will be supporting the nationwide "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign running from December 10, 2025, through January 1, 2026.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), December drunk driving deaths are at their highest nationwide in 15 years. The agency also notes that even one drink can impair driving; at a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.02, visual functions and multitasking abilities begin to decline. Over the last five years in Kentucky, there have been 448 impaired driving-related crashes, resulting in 192 injuries and 13 deaths, during the Christmas and New Year holidays.

To prevent impaired driving-related tragedies this holiday season, KYTC recommends the following:

•Before festivities



begin, plan a way to safely get home at the end of the night.

•If impaired, use a ride-booking company or taxi, call a sober friend or family member or use public transportation.

•If you see an impaired driver, safely pull over and contact law enforcement. You may dial the KSP toll-free line directly at 800-222-5555 or call 911.

•If you know people who are about to drive or ride while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to their destination; and

•Wear a seat belt! It is not only the law, but also the best defense against an impaired driver. Buckling up helps prevent injury and death if involved in a crash.

Notice of Vacant Bracken County School Board of Education Seat

At the December 8, 2025 Board Meeting, Mrs. Angie Crawford announced her retirement effective 2/1/26. Her knowledge and guidance has been an asset over the past 17 years, so the other board members reluctantly accepted her resignation.

The Bracken County School Board of Education is seeking applications for appointment to fill the vacancy on the Board representing the District number two (Chatham). This appointment will be effective until December 31, 2026. Pursuant to KRS 160.190, this seat will be open to election in the November 2026 general election for the remainder of the unexpired term (December 31, 2028).

Responsibilities include setting policy to govern the District; hiring/evaluating the Superintendent; and levying taxes and adopting the District budget.

Board members must:

- Be at least 24 years old and a Kentucky citizen for the last three years;
- Be a registered voter in the particular District of the vacancy;
- Have completed the 12th grade or have a GED certificate;
- Meet all other legal qualifications (KRS 160.180); and
- Complete required annual in-service training.

Applications are available at 1048 Bladeston Drive, Brooksville, KY 41004 or online at <https://www.bracken.kyschools.us/Content2/620>

Mail applications to: Superintendent, ATTN: Board Vacancy, 1048 Bladeston Drive, Brooksville, KY 41004 or they can also be dropped off to the same address.

The Application must be submitted no later than noon on Tuesday, December 30, 2025.

Interviews may be scheduled the week of January 5th – 9th and official appointment made at the regular board meeting on January 12, 2026.

Bracken County Dispatch 911 Vacancy

Bracken County Dispatch 911 is seeking a full-time 911 Dispatcher. The Dispatcher must respond to emergency and non-emergency calls for assistance and information. They must provide dispatch and communication support services for police, fire, emergency, and related services. Applicants must be 18 years old, must have a high school diploma/GED or equivalent and will have to pass a background check and drug test.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities:

- Operate a multi-line telephone console system, alerting system, and TDD system for the deaf and hearing-impaired.
- Translate information to the appropriate codes.
- Determine and assign the level of priority of the call and enter the data into a computer-aided dispatch system for radio dispatch purposes.
- Perform emergency medical dispatch and crisis intervention services.
- Ask vital questions and provide pre-arrival instructions for emergency medical calls.
- Monitor and operate a radio console and computer equipment.
- Receive and respond to a variety of emergency and non-emergency services and complaints.
- Ask questions to interpret, analyze and anticipate the caller's situation as to resolve problems, provide information, dispatch emergency services, or refer callers to other agencies.
- Dispatch and coordinate the responses of public safety agencies.
- Identify appropriate number and type of equipment or apparatus to dispatch.
- Enters and modifies information into local, state, and national computer databases.
- Monitor and respond to a variety of technical systems and alarms.

Required Skills:

- The ability to use logic and reasoning to reach conclusions and approaches to problems; follow instructions; and write proficiently.
- Effective use of judgment and decision-making skills to evaluate situations, establish priorities, and resolve matters.
- Must be able to think quickly and work in stressful situations.
- Ability to actively listen and communicate effectively through clear speech and hearing.
- The ability to establish priorities and pass on information as needed.
- Excellent multitasking abilities and attention to detail.
- Available to work flexible hours, including evenings, weekends, and holidays.

Benefits:

•Benefits include paid holidays, vacation/sick time, health, life insurance, dental, vision and retirement benefits.

Salary:

•Non certified \$14.66

Certified \$16.98

Certification upon employment is a requirement.

Applications can be obtained in the Bracken County Judge Executive's office located in the Bracken County Courthouse, 116 West Miami Street, Brooksville, KY 41004 during normal business hours. The applications can be returned via mail to P.O. Box 264, Brooksville, KY 41004, emailed or dropped off at the office. If you prefer email, please email the application to tjacobs@brackencountykentucky.com.

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CITY OF BROOKSVILLE ORDINANCE #25-07

AN ORDINANCE RAISING TAP FEES FOR GAS AND WATER UTILITY SERVICES WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF BROOKSVILLE

WHEREAS, the City of Brooksville finds it necessary to raise the tap fees for both gas and water utility services provided to customers within the corporate limits of the City of Brooksville; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF BROOKSVILLE, KENTUCKY, that any above referenced utility lines extending up to five feet in length shall be assessed a tap fee of \$850.00 with any additional length necessary for said lines shall be assessed an additional cost of \$200.00 per 100 feet.

This Ordinance shall take effect from and after its passage, approval, and publication as required by law.

/s/ CRAIG HESTER, Mayor
City of Brooksville

First Reading: 11-13-25

Second Reading & Passage: 12-11-25

Published: 12-18-25

ATTEST: /s/ SANDRA REYNOLDS

City Clerk/Treasurer