

Managing risk at different stages of life



Financial Focus

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As an investor, you will always need to deal with risk of some kind. How can you manage the risk that accompanies the volatility of the financial markets? The answer depends somewhat on where you are in

life.

When you're starting out ... If you're early in your career, with perhaps four or five decades until you retire, you can likely afford to invest primarily for growth, which also means you'll be taking on a higher level of risk – because risk and reward are positively correlated. But, given your age, you will have time to overcome the market downturns that are both inevitable and a normal part of investing. Still, even at this stage, being over-aggressive can be costly.

When you're in the "middle stages" ... At this time of your life, you're possibly well along in your career and working on at least a couple of financial goals,

such as saving for retirement and your children's college education. You'll want to begin adjusting the balance in your portfolio between assets with higher growth and those with lower growth since there will be progressively less time to rebuild losses. You'll need to decide on the balance between risk and growth that's right for you.

When you're a few years from retirement ... You may have already achieved some key goals – perhaps your children have finished college and you've paid off your mortgage. As a result, you may have more money available to put away for retirement. Growth still matters because your retirement could be 25 or 30 years

long, and you'll need investments that can keep up with inflation. But you'll also need investments designed to help provide for your income needs in retirement and provide more stability. Also consider reducing your exposure to higher-risk investments and instead consider investing more in stable dividend-paying stocks, government and investment-grade bonds, and cash.

When you're retired ... Once you're retired, you might think you should take no risks at all with substantial assets held in cash. However, you could spend two or three decades in retirement, so you may need some growth potential in your portfolio to stay ahead of inflation. A more balanced mix between

equities and fixed income is generally appropriate. Establishing a withdrawal rate that's appropriate for your lifestyle and projected longevity can help reduce the risk of outliving your money. Of course, if there's an extended market downturn during any time of your retirement, you may want to temporarily lower your withdrawal rate.

Managing investment risk is a lifelong process that evolves with your goals, responsibilities and time horizon. While you'll look for balance among your investments based on your life

stage, having a balanced and diversified portfolio doesn't fully protect against a loss. Still, aligning your strategy with your stage of life can help navigate market volatility and stay on track toward long-term success while avoiding emotional investment decisions. The key is staying informed and making intelligent choices that reflect your current income needs and future aspirations.

(Editors Note: This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.)

Thank you to our small businesses



Chamber Chat

Jill Cutler
Executive Director
Mercer Chamber of Commerce

Small Business Saturday season thanks!

We are saying thank you once again. This time for all those small businesses that participated in the Small Business Saturday event

including those pop up shops and vendor events all over the place. Thank you to those shopping the day of Small Business Saturday and the entire season.

Thank you to EVERY small business in Mercer County and our members all over our region. We thank them for their perseverance in varying business climates, trials and tribulations. We see your sacrifices. We see some of the struggles. We see your commitment.

You have adapted to online sales, foot traffic that waxes and wanes and coordinating events. We are proud for you and wish you the very best now and into the next. You are to be valued and appreciated every day. Your resilience is key.

Beginning farmers encouraged to apply for 2026 KY Farm Launch program



Extension Notes

Linda McClanahan
Mercer County
Cooperative Extension
Agent for Agriculture

Have you ever dreamed of starting your own farm but felt overwhelmed by the business side of things? Or maybe you've already dipped your toes into farming and want to take your operation to the next level. If that sounds like you — and you've been farming for less than 10 years — KY Farm Launch might be the perfect opportunity.

KY Farm Launch is a nine-month, in-person training program based in Lexington, designed specifically for beginning farmers. The program kicks off in March 2026 and runs through November, meeting one full day each

week. Best of all? There's no cost to participate, just a commitment to show up and a passion for building your farm business.

This hands-on program is more than just learning how to grow crops or raise livestock. It's about building a sustainable, profitable farm operation. Participants will receive training in production techniques for vegetables, small fruits, beef cattle, sheep, goats and poultry. KY Farm Launch also dives deep into business planning, marketing strategies and management skills, areas that often seem overwhelming to new farmers. The goal is to take away some of the barriers that discourage people from getting started.

The program is a partnership between the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, the Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development (KCARD), the Kentucky Sheep and Goat Development Office, UKCSA and The Food Connection @ UK. It's funded through a USDA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program grant, which means participants get

access to top-notch resources and expertise at no cost.

Participants will learn from experienced community farmers and Extension staff on UK farms in and around Lexington. You'll get one-on-one mentoring and join a supportive cohort of other beginning farmers who share your challenges and goals.

If you've got less than 10 years of farming experience and the drive to grow your operation, don't miss this chance. Applications for the second class of KY Farm Launch are now open. For more information, contact your Mercer County Extension office or visit <https://bfrdp.mgcafe.uky.edu/>. Educational programs of the Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expressions, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability.

(The Mercer County Cooperative Extension

Essity donates holiday meals to Mercer County Elementary

Essity, a leading global hygiene and health company, with its North American headquarters located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, will help feed thousands across North America during the holidays in the United States.

The company will be making meal donations totaling nearly 3,500 meals on behalf of their employees in each of the U.S. markets where it operates. This includes Harrodsburg and Danville, where they will be donating to the Mercer County Elementary Family Resource.

Essity, which employs approximately 3,700 employees in North America, operates in more than a dozen locations. The company manufactures and sells the leading global Tork brand of professional hygiene products, personal care and incontinence products under the TENA brand; and medical solutions—such as orthopedic, compression and wound care products—from world-renowned brands such as JOBST, Actimove, Leukoplast and more.

"Essity is grateful to support the Mercer County Elementary Family Resource, which helps families right here in the communities where our employees live and work," said Jose Hernandez, site manager at Essity Harrodsburg. "We are proud to serve our

community and its members in need not just during the season of giving, but every day of the year."

Essity is partnering with the following charitable organizations to distribute holiday meals to community members in their local regions, including Wisconsin, Alabama, New Jersey, North Carolina, Quebec, Texas, Connecticut, Ohio, Ontario, Pennsylvania, Oklahoma and here in Kentucky, including Harrodsburg, Danville and Bowling Green.

Essity is a global, leading hygiene and health company. Every day, our products, solutions and services are used by a billion people around the world. Our purpose is to break barriers to well-being for the benefit of consumers, patients, caregivers, customers and society. Sales are conducted in approximately 150 countries under the leading global brands TENA and Tork, and other strong brands such as Actimove, Cutimed, JOBST, Knix, Leukoplast, Libero, Libresse, Lotus, Modibodi, Nosotras, Saba, Tempo, TOM Organic and Zewa. In 2024, Essity had net sales of approximately \$14 billion and employed 36,000 people. The company's headquarters is located in Stockholm, Sweden, and Essity is listed on Nasdaq Stockholm.

Essity employs more than

375 people at its Danville distribution center and Harrodsburg paper mill. Essity also has approximately 160 employees at its manufacturing facility in Bowling Green. Learn more at essityusa.com.

REQUEST FOR BIDS: Wilkinson Farm Site Clearing/Demo/Cleanup

Harrodsburg Mercer County Industrial Development Authority

The Harrodsburg Mercer County Industrial Development Authority ("HMCIDA") is soliciting sealed bids from qualified contractors for preliminary cleanup, maintenance, and demolition/clearing work on the site. Bids should be labeled "HMCIDA Site Cleanup Bid" in a sealed envelope and delivered or mailed to Harrodsburg Mercer County Industrial Development Authority at 488 Price Avenue, Harrodsburg KY, 40330. **BIDS SHALL BE DUE ON MONDAY JANUARY 5 AT 1:00PM**, at which time all bids received will be opened and read aloud.

HMCIDA requires:

- Demolition of a wooden property boundary fence
- Clearing of approximately 40 trees
- Bush hogging and clearing of brush on the site and in the state right-of-way along US 127 (contractor must secure permit from KYTC).
- Demolition and removal of one tobacco barn, one hay shed, one silo, a concrete livestock trough, and an abandoned concrete well assembly
- Installation of new gate(s) on KY 390/Bohon Rd.

All interested persons and firms should contact HMCIDA between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday to obtain more information, a job site map, instructions for handling job site debris and specific instructions for required liability insurance. Bids must be received at the Office of HMCIDA by 1:00PM on January 5, 2025. HMCIDA reserves the right to reject any and all bids not meeting the needs of the authority.

Interested parties should contact:

Harrodsburg Mercer County Industrial Development Authority
Greyson Evans
859-333-7737, hmcida@mercercy.com

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