



Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment

EXTENSION NOTES

from **Jonathan Oakes**

Russell County Extension Office
Agriculture and Natural Resources
extension.mgcafe.uky.edu

How to Keep Your Livestock and Fields Safer from Mud

Source: Steve Higgins, assistant adjunct professor, Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering

As every livestock owner knows, mud is more than a nuisance. It robs animals of energy, wastes feed and tears up pasture. The good news is that a few wise choices about location and surface design can turn the worst trouble spots into firm, drainable ground that holds up month after month.

Start with placement

Heavy-use areas — feeders, gates, mineral sites and waterers — are best when set on a slight rise, not in a “bottom” or along a ditch. When you place these hubs on higher ground, you deal only with the rain that falls there, not with water flowing through from the rest of the field. That single decision cuts most of the mud before it is able to form.

Build a layered pad

Under any rock or gravel, separate soil from stone with felt-like, non-woven, geotextile fabric. Overlap seams by a foot or two, lay it flat, then cover with compacted dense-grade aggregate. Go easy with the first lift so you don't tear the fabric, then make sure it is well compacted. This simple fabric-plus-rock system spreads the load from hooves and resists rutting. When the surface loosens with use, add a thin layer of stone and compact again.

Choose the right surface for the spot

Concrete earns its keep around waterers, feed bunks and scraping lanes. Give it a rough finish — rougher than a sidewalk — to protect hips and joints. Where you want gravel but need more stability, plastic paver grids (think shallow egg cartons) lock rock in place and stop sloppy areas before they begin. Budget-friendly reinforcements, like

filling old tires or cinder blocks with rock, can stiffen lanes and edges. Soil-cement can work for larger pads built in warm weather; use concrete where routine scraping is expected.

Daily habits that pay off

Keep hay off bare soil; once trampled into mud, it's lost feed and a future weed patch. Scrape manure before it dissolves into sludge. Avoid driving heavy equipment across wet ground to reduce ruts that channel more water during the next rain. Give animals a firm path to and from water and feed so they don't churn a single patch into soup. Where animals access a stream, build one armored entry or crossing rather than letting the whole bank break down.

Fixing cow paths

Grazing animals form contour trails (“cow-touring”) and single-file cow paths to save energy moving to water, feed and minerals. In wet weather, these routes can trough, erode, expose slick clay and become hard to traverse, especially on steeper slopes (cattle struggle above ~30%).

An all-weather path solves this by building a drainable base: excavate about eight inches, lay nonwoven geotextile, set recycled tire tread cylinders end-to-end in the trench and fill inside and around them with dense-grade aggregate. The tire tops

finish at or just above grade. These paths provide firm footing year-round, cut energy costs for animals and protect fields from rutting and erosion.

To learn more about keeping mud out of your fields and stalls, contact the Russell County Extension office.

Announcements

CAIP Receipts accepted – December 11, from 1:00-4:00 PM. Please call 270-866-4477 to make an appointment. If no appointments are scheduled, Wanda Miick, Program Coordinator, will not be at the Extension Office.

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Gemma West Crowned Wee Miss Kentucky Princess 2025



Gemma West

Gemma West, the two-year-old daughter of Terence and Cheyenne West of Russell Springs, Kentucky, has been awarded the title of Wee Miss Kentucky Princess 2025. Gemma earned this distinction during the Kentucky State Festivals Pageant, held on November 14, 2025, in Lexington, Kentucky.

Her journey to the state stage began earlier in the year when she secured first place at the Jamestown Lakefest competition, qualifying her to advance to the statewide event. With her new state title, Gemma has now earned the opportunity to

compete at the national level next year.

Throughout her pageant experience, Gemma has developed a genuine love for competition and has especially enjoyed the opportunity to form new friendships. According to her family, she looks forward to every aspect of pageantry, from choosing her outfits to having

her hair and makeup done. Her enthusiasm and bright spirit have made her a memorable presence at each event she attends.

Gemma's family and community extend their congratulations on her achievement and look forward to her continued success as she prepares for nationals in the coming year.

Community Calendar

“Seeking the Christ Child”

Fairview Separate Baptist Church, at the Junction of 55 & 379, will have a Christmas Program, “Seeking the Christ Child,” following with a live Nativity, December 7th, 2025, at 6:00 PM. Everyone is invited to attend the inside program and visit the live nativity outside at the end of the program.

Senior Community Service Employment Program

Accepting applications for part-time positions in Adair, Clinton, Cumberland, Laurel, McCreary, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Russell, Wayne, and Whitley. Must be 55+ years of age, meet limited income guidelines, be unemployed and looking for employment. Call Connie Foster at 606-210-1129 or Jolene Aleman at 270-566- 5316 or visit www. goodwill.org/SCSEP Let us help you re-enter the workforce!

D.A.V. Meeting

The D.A.V. meets the 4th Monday of each month at 6:00 P.M. CST at 155 Owentown School Road Russell Springs, KY

TOPS

Take Off Pounds Sensibly is a weight loss support program whose goal is to help men/ women/ youth to become healthier by losing weight in a sensible manner. The local chapter, TOPS 396 Russell Springs meets Mondays at 5pm at Liberty Baptist Church, 215 Wilson Street in Russell Springs. Online memberships and virtual chapter memberships are also available. Yearly membership dues are less than \$50, first visit is free. Questions? Text/ call Bonnie, chapter leader, 270-566-1284 or visit TOPS.Club.org

God's Food Pantry of Russell County

God's Food Pantry of Russell County God's Food Pantry of Russell County is open Monday-Wednesday-Friday from 12:00-4:00 PM. The pantry is located at 101 Brian Walters Dr. In Russell Springs. Call for information 270-866-7992.

Alcoholics Anonymous(AA) Men

Monday nights at SPARC(Sobriety, Peace, Awareness, and Recovery) 270-585-5377 at 6:00 PM

Celebrate Recovery

Tuesday nights at 6:00 PM, First Baptist Church, Russell Springs, KY. Thursday nights at 5:30 P.M., The Springs, 226 Jamestown St., Russell Springs. Monday nights at 6:00 P.M. Solid Rock Church 189 West Drive Russell Springs.

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NOTICE OF MASTER COMMISSIONER SALE

In order to comply with the orders of the Russell Circuit Court, the Master Commissioner of the Russell Circuit Court shall proceed to offer for sale to the highest and best bidder at public auction the below properties on **Friday, December 5, 2025, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., CT, Russell District Courtroom, Russell County Judicial Center, Jamestown, Kentucky.**

Said properties shall be sold to raise the amounts hereinafter set forth, together with interest and the costs of the action, and upon (unless otherwise indicated) the following terms and conditions:

A) For the purchase price, the Purchaser(s) must pay in full by cash or good check on the date of sale or the Purchaser(s) may pay ten (10%) down on the day of sale and shall execute a good and sufficient purchase money bond, with approved surety thereon, equal to the balance of the purchase price payable to the Master Commissioner within thirty (30) days. Any such purchase money bond shall have the force and effect of a Judgment and shall be a lien upon the property sold as additional security for the payment of the balance of the purchase price. The Master Commissioner's bond shall bear interest at the rate the judgment bears from the date of sale until paid in full. **In the event the successful bidder is not paying the full amount of the purchase price on the date of sale, purchaser will be required to post bond and furnish an acceptable surety thereon.** In the event the successful bidder is the Plaintiff, then in lieu of the deposit the Plaintiff shall be allowed to bid on credit up to the Judgment amount.

B) Purchaser shall be required to pay property taxes for current tax year and all taxes thereafter, for which the Purchaser(s) shall receive no credit against the purchase price.

C) The property shall otherwise be sold free and clear of any right, title, and interest of all parties to the action and of their liens and encumbrances thereon, excepting easements and restrictions of record in the Russell County Court Clerk's Office and such right of redemption as may exist in favor of the United States of America or the Defendant(s).

The Master Commissioner Sale/Deed is not a warranty of good title. Possession shall be given to the Purchaser(s) with the delivery of the Master Commissioner's Deed thereto. Purchaser(s) will assume and be responsible for all risks of loss to the premises upon acceptance of their bid by the Master Commissioner at the Master Commissioner's Sale.

Bidder should examine the records of the Russell Circuit Clerk and the Russell County Clerk prior to the sale for further information. Any statements made the day of the sale shall take precedence over advertised material. Bidder shall be prepared to comply promptly with these terms.

(Sale bonds will bear interest at the rate of Judgment entered in each separate action)

SALE NO. 1

Property address: **Lots 7 and 22, Section H, Lily Creek Resort, Jamestown, KY Map ID: 047-90-08-007.00**
CENTURION HOLDINGS, INC. vs. MATT HOLTSBERRY (a.k.a. Matthew R. Holtsberry), UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF MATT HOLTSBERRY, RUSSELL COUNTY INVESTMENTS, LLC., LILY CREEK HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC., AND, THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY, COUNTY OF RUSSELL Civil Action No. 25-CI-00182 Amount to be raised: \$3,547.59

SALE NO. 2

Property address: **441 Little Louisville Road, Jamestown, KY 42629 Map ID: 047-90-14-063.00**
JOYCE VERSINO vs. MARTIN BUDDE, SALLY BUDDE, CENTURION HOLDINGS, LLC, COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY, COUNTY OF RUSSELL Civil Action No. 22-CI-00172 Amount to be raised: \$4,884.56

M GAIL WILSON, MASTER COMMISSIONER, RUSSELL CIRCUIT COURT

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