

Agriculture

Beyond the scarecrows

JESSICA BARNES, HARRISON COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT FOR AG & NATURAL RESOURCES

SOURCE: MATT SPRINGER, ASSOCIATE EXTENSION PROFESSOR

Wildlife is integral to Kentucky's landscape, and farms inevitably share space with a diverse range of animals. Rather than attempting to eliminate wildlife—an unrealistic and counterproductive goal—effective on-farm wildlife management can work to reduce conflicts and encourage natural behaviors that keep wildlife and people safely separated.

Consider these strategies: Define the problem—and the likely culprit.

Is the interaction causing harm or simply inconvenience? Economic loss, crop damage or threats to safety clearly require intervention, while other encounters—like a harmless snake sighting—may only require tolerance.

Identifying the species responsible for damage is not always simple. Clues such as habitat type, height of tree damage, bite patterns, tracks and scat can narrow the possibilities. Trail cameras, field guides and expert



Metro Creative Connection

assistance can also provide confirmation.

Modify the habitat. Small changes can make the environment less inviting and discourage wildlife from lingering near crops, buildings and livestock areas. Modifications can include:

- Reducing cover by

- mowing or clearing vegetation
- Removing attractants such as fallen fruit, unsecured feed or debris

- Eliminating denning or nesting sites such as hollow trees or woodpiles

- Use deterrents strategically.

- Deterrents can provide short-term protection. Visual

tools like decoys or scare devices often work best when rotated frequently so animals do not become accustomed to them. Try to introduce them right before wildlife pressure increases, such as just before fruit ripens or during calving season.

Deterrents like lasers or

noise-making devices can help in certain scenarios but rarely offer permanent relief. For any deterrent, timing and variety matter more than the device itself.

Invest in fencing and enclosures.

Fencing is one of the most reliable long-term options for reducing wildlife damage, especially around high-value crops and livestock. Though they require higher upfront costs, well-designed enclosures reduce the need for repeated deterrents.

Deer generally require structures at least eight feet tall, but an offset fence disrupts their depth perception. Electrified fences are more appropriate for wildlife that climb or dig.

Enclosures also work best when installed proactively, before animals get accustomed to feeding or traveling in the protected area.

Trap and hunt to reduce populations.

Trapping and hunting can be effective, especially for species like raccoons and deer. Kentucky law (KRS

150.170) allows landowners to protect their property from most wildlife, except those protected under federal law (bats and migratory birds). When animals are taken, landowners must notify a conservation officer to obtain a confirmation number and may only keep consumable meat.

Hunting also supports long-term deer management and can provide supplemental income through leased access. Effective population control requires harvesting does, and landowners should monitor harvest outcomes.

Plan for long-term management.

There is no one-time, permanent fix. Effective management requires persistence and the combination of multiple strategies.

Every farm is different, and species-specific recommendations vary widely. For tailored assistance, contact your Harrison Extension office, where agents can help identify wildlife problems and recommend safe, effective management options.

2026 Kentucky Farm Bureau Beef Expo

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The 2026 Kentucky Farm Bureau Beef Expo finished with more than \$940,000 in total sales in the 40th edition of the event at the Kentucky Exposition Center during the first weekend of March.

Total sales in 2026 were \$942,300—a \$239,763 increase over last year's sales. The average sale per lot also increased from \$3,369 last year to \$4,706 this year—a dif-

ference of \$1,337.

Although the show saw an increase in total sales and average lot sales, the number of lots sold decreased by 10 from last year to 198 this year, in line with a nationwide decrease in cattle inventory. The smaller inventory is creating strong cattle prices for producers.

"The latest numbers show cattle and calves are Kentucky's number one commodity bringing in more than \$1 billion in agricultural cash

receipts. As the largest beef cattle state east of the Mississippi River, the Kentucky Farm Bureau Beef Expo showcases the importance of this industry," Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell said. "Although the number of lot sales were down, we are excited to see average sale prices on the rise, showing the resiliency and strength of this agricultural sector."

Angus cattle brought an average of \$5,983 per lot to

lead all breeds. The sale topper was a \$40,000 Angus female from Circle M Farms out of Rockwall, Texas. The Beef Expo welcomed 12 states, including Kentucky, and six breeds this year.

In the junior show, 409 cattle from eight states passed through the show ring, including 189 from Kentucky.

The 2026 Beef Expo's main sponsors were Kentucky Farm Bureau and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

\$3.7 million in Tobacco Settlement Funds to support Kentucky farmers

The Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission has selected 305 projects in 73 counties to receive more than \$3.7 million in tobacco settlement funds, helping Kentucky farmers improve the health and productivity of their farmland.

Sixteen projects have been approved in Harrison County so far totaling \$159,621.

Projects may include installing livestock waterers,

fencing or grassed waterways, establishing rotational grazing, planting cover crops and more.

Tobacco Master Settlement funds are appropriated each year to support the State Cost Share Program. Funds are distributed with the assistance of the Soil and Water Conservation Commission and the 121 conservation districts across Kentucky which work with local farmers to verify and

submit proposed projects for consideration.

Award recipients have two years to complete the project. In the past 31 years, more than \$187 million has been provided through the program.

For more information about the State Cost Share program, visit <https://eec.ky.gov/Natural-Resources/Conservation/Pages/State-Cost-Share.aspx>.

SEED

FROM PAGE B3

You can use small pots left over from store-bought plants. Once they are transplanted return them to their light source (if they are in a window give them a quarter turn every day, so they grow straight). Continue to water your transplants from the bottom when needed, adding some diluted fish emulsion fertilizer once a week.

When conditions are right for your plants (check the seed package for details) acclimate them to the outdoors before planting in the garden. Put them outside in the shade,

first, gradually moving them into the sunlight; they will be ready to plant in the garden in about a week.



With Good Company LLC mailing address of 487 General John Payne Blvd. Georgetown KY 40324 hereby declares its intention(s) to apply for a **NQ Malt Beverage Package, Caterer's, Alcoholic Beverage License(s)** no later than **March 31, 2026**. The licensed premises will be located at **329 S Church St. Cynthiana Kentucky 41031**. The owner and president is **Member, Ohnmar Withers of 487 General Hohn Payne Blvd. Georgetown KY 40324** Member, **Huy Leng Good of 128 St. Andrews Way, Georgetown KY 40324**

Any person, association, corporation, or body politic may protest the granting of the license(s) by writing the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, 500 Mero Street 2NE33, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601, within thirty (30) days of the date of legal publication.

YOUR CUSTOMER JUST READ THIS AD. ADVERTISE WITH US.



LEGAL NOTICE INVITATION FOR SEALED BIDS

The Harrison County Fire Protection District, Inc., Board of Trustees will be receiving sealed bids for mowing and weed eating of 9 properties. Specifications may be obtained by contacting the business office of the Harrison County Fire Protection District Inc., located at the main Fire Station, 1014 US Highway 62 East, Cynthiana, KY 41031, (859) 234-4264. All sealed bids will be accepted via mail to: Harrison County Fire Protection District, Inc. 1014 US Highway 62 East, Cynthiana, KY 41031, or by personal delivery to the business office of the Harrison County Fire Protection District, Inc., 1014 US Highway 62 East, Cynthiana, KY 41031 no later than 3:30 p.m., April 8, 2026. Bids will be opened April 8, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. during a regular meeting of the Harrison County Fire Protection District, Inc. Board of Trustees held at the main Fire Station, 1014 US Highway 62 East, Cynthiana, KY 41031. The Harrison County Fire Protection District, Inc. Board reserves the right to accept or reject any/or all bids. James McCarty, Chairman Harrison County Fire Protection District, Inc. Board of Trustees

• GUN SHOW •

Guns, Knives & Ammo. Buy, Sell, Trade or Look.
Cave Country Conference Center Cave City Kentucky
Saturday, March 28th 9am-5pm CST
Sunday March 29th 9am-4pm CST
2-Day Admission \$10 \$5.00 Sunday only

POSTED!

All persons are hereby notified not to trespass, fish or shoot upon the lands of the undersigned. Any person caught trespassing in violation of this notice will be reported to the sheriff and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. It is necessary that we take this step to protect our property and wildlife.

No Trespassing on Fisher Farm or Fisher Estate property in Harrison Co., Berry KY. Owned by Gary & Patricia Earle without written permission from Patricia Earle agent.

Posted No Farm Trespassing at 13027 Ky Hwy 356 Sadieville Ky, Harrison Co

No Hunting or Trespassing on the property belonging to Billie Grob lots 1, 4, 5, 6 and 41 of Maric Lane.

List your posted property here!
\$42.95/year • (859)234-1035, Option 1



ORDINANCE NO. 379, SERIES 2026 AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO SNOW EMERGENCIES FOR THE COUNTY OF HARRISON, KENTUCKY.

WHEREAS, the Harrison Fiscal Court has determined that it is appropriate to follow snow emergencies for highways within the jurisdictional boundaries of Harrison County in accordance with this ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED by the fiscal court of the county of Harrison, Commonwealth of Kentucky:

SECTION 1. SNOW EMERGENCY LEVELS

(A) Upon the occurrence of snow, sleet, or freezing rain and after consultation with the Cynthiana Police Department, Harrison County Sheriff's Department, the County Road Department, the Harrison County Office of Emergency Management, and the County Judge's Office, the County Judge Executive or his or her designee may declare a snow emergency. Upon such declarations, all major media outlets, and other governmental jurisdictions as well as school district authorities in the county shall be notified by the most expedient method as practicable under the circumstances.

(B) Snow emergencies may be declared at one of the following levels:

(1) Level One.
(a) Conditions: Roadways are hazardous with blowing and/or drifting snow and roadways may be icy.
(b) Advisory: Cautious driving is advised.

(2) Level Two.
(a) Conditions: Roadways are hazardous with blowing and/or drifting snow and roadways may be icy.
(b) Advisory: Only motorists whose travel is necessary should be

on roadways. Residents are urged to contact their employer concerning work schedules.

(3) Level Three.
(a) Conditions: All roadways are restricted to emergency personnel, travel for work (including agricultural services where travel is required to maintain function), provisions, medical supplies, or medical treatment and private snow removal operations.
(b) Advisory: Essential travel only is advised. Violators are subject to prosecution. Residents are urged to contact their employer concerning work schedules.

(C) Whenever any level of snow emergency has been announced, no vehicle may be parked and no person, corporation, partnership, joint venture, unincorporated association, or any combination thereof may park or permit any vehicle to be parked on any county maintained road. The prohibition of parking shall remain in effect until the County Judge Executive or his or her designee announces the termination of the snow emergency, in part or in whole, after which the prohibition of parking authorized by this section shall no longer be in effect.

(D) During snow emergencies, the Harrison County Road Department may, at its own discretion, or as ordered by the Office of the County Judge Executive, assist in clearing non-county or state-owned roadways.

SECTION 2. TERMINATION OF EMERGENCY

Whenever the County Judge Executive or his or her designee shall find that some or all of the conditions which gave rise to the snow emergency prohibition no longer exist, the County Judge Executive or his or her designee is authorized to declare the termination of the snow emergency, in part or in whole, effective immediately on announcement. If the announcement is made other than between 6:00 a.m. and 11:00 p.m., it shall be repeated between those hours.

SECTION 3. PARKING IN VIOLATION OF SNOW EMERGENCY PROHIBITION.

Any motor vehicle parked in violation of this ordinance which constitutes a safety hazard may be towed by the County or its designee at the owner's expense.

SECTION 4. PENALTY

(A) Any person receiving a citation for any parking violation in the county shall be deemed to have committed a violation and shall be fined in an amount not more than \$250.00.
(B) Each day's violation of the provision of this chapter shall constitute a separate offense.

(C) Any motor vehicle parked in violation of this ordinance, which constitutes a safety hazard or interferes with snow removal, may be towed at the owner's expense.

SECTION 5. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon passage and publication.

Submitted: */s/Bradley K. Vaughn*
Bradley K. Vaughn
Harrison County Attorney

GIVEN FIRST READING AND APPROVAL BY THE FISCAL COURT OF HARRISON COUNTY, KENTUCKY AT A REGULAR MEETING ON THE 24th DAY OF February, 2026.
GIVEN SECOND READING AND ADOPTED BY THE FISCAL COURT OF HARRISON COUNTY, KENTUCKY AT REGULAR MEETING ON THE 10th DAY OF March, 2026, AND ON THE SAME OCCASION, SIGNED IN OPEN SESSION BY THE COUNTY JUDGE-EXECUTIVE AS OF ITS APPROVAL. ATTESTED UNDER SEAL BY THE HARRISON COUNTY FISCAL COURT AND DECLARED TO BE IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT.

/s/ Jason Marshall
Jason Marshall
Harrison County Judge-Executive

ATTEST:
/s/ Linda Barnes
Linda Barnes
Fiscal Court Clerk