

Make smart nitrogen decisions in a high-cost, low-supply spring

Submitted by Cindy List

Nitrogen fertilizer is one of the most critical inputs for crop and forage production, but high prices and potential supply delays mean farmers need to be strategic to ensure every pound applied provides the greatest return.

Start with a soil test. Even though soil tests do not directly measure nitrogen, they are still the foundation of sound nitrogen management. Soil test results provide recommendations for lime, phosphorus (P) and potassium (K), which influence how efficiently crops use nitrogen, as fields with low soil pH or other nutrient deficiencies often respond poorly to nitrogen applications. Additional nitrogen will

not overcome other nutrient limitations. Bringing soil pH and other nutrients into the recommended range allows plants to use applied nitrogen more efficiently, saving money.

Follow university recommendations for nitrogen rates. With higher nitrogen prices, applying more than recommended is a costly practice that rarely pays off. UK Extension fertilizer recommendations are based on years of field research across the state and are designed to match nitrogen rates with crop needs under Kentucky conditions. For many crops, especially corn, nitrogen recommendations are provided as a range, and moving toward the lower end can make economic

sense — particularly when paired with practices that improve nitrogen efficiency.

Improve nitrogen use efficiency through timing. Nitrogen is most vulnerable to loss when it is applied too early or long before crop uptake. Rainfall and warm temperatures can lead to leaching, runoff or denitrification, reducing the amount of nitrogen available to the crop.

To reduce losses, farmers should consider applying nitrogen closer to when crops need it, splitting nitrogen applications on corn and avoiding fall nitrogen applications for spring-planted crops.

Nitrogen stabilizers and placement can reduce losses. Urease inhibitors can reduce volatilization

losses of surface-applied urea-containing fertilizers. Nitrogen placement below residue or soil surface can also reduce nitrogen losses by limiting contact with residue, decreasing immobilization and reducing urea volatilization.

Consider alternative nitrogen materials. Animal manures — such as poultry litter or livestock manure composts — can supply meaningful amounts of nitrogen while also providing other nutrients and organic matter. When using manure, it is important to test the material to determine nutrient content, credit manure-supplied nitrogen toward total crop needs and apply at rates that align with crop demand. Manure is

not “free fertilizer,” but when properly managed, it can reduce the need for purchased nitrogen products. Make sure that animal manures are appropriately priced relative to commercial fertilizer, accounting for the value of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium supplied.

Think about cropping systems and forages. Forage systems and crop rotations can also influence nitrogen needs. Forages containing legumes can supply much of their own nitrogen, reducing or eliminating the need for purchased nitrogen fertilizer. Similarly, crops like soybeans do not require nitrogen fertilizer, while crops such as corn have much higher nitrogen demands. In a year with high nitrogen

prices, understanding these differences is critical when planning rotations or forage management strategies.

Nitrogen management decisions carry more risk in years of high prices and limited supply. For help with soil testing, selecting appropriate nitrogen rates and timing, evaluating alternative nutrient sources and adjusting fertility plans to current economic conditions, contact the Fleming County Cooperative Extension Office at (606) 845-4641, or email april.wilhoit@uky.edu University of Kentucky is an equal opportunity provider.

Fernleaf Homemakers April meeting

Submitted by Janice Barnett-Gifford

Fernleaf Homemakers held their April 8, 2026 meeting at Babz Bistro in downtown Maysville.

President Ann Porter called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. She gave our thought for the day, “Each moment is too precious to waste.” The pledge to the American flag was given followed by our devotional reading given by Betty Harris entitled “Throughout the Day,” written by Ester Nilson. Roll call was taken followed by a prayer given by Janice Gifford to bless the food to be served. Coins for Change was collected. The treasurer, Janice Gifford, gave the treasurer’s report. The March minutes will need to be approved at the May meeting as time did not permit them to be copied and presented at this meeting.

Committee reports were given: Jeanette Tolle reported on 4-H camp to be held June 29th to July 3rd; Brenda Crackel, Food and Nutrition, reported on New Dietary Guidelines that have been released as they are updated every 5 years; Michele Askren-Miller, International, reported on ACW

women who have rural farms; Betty Harris, Cultural Arts, announced that entries going to the state meeting need to be at the extension office by May 9th. Betty also informed the club that next year the categories will be updated and changes made. She gave an update on the passport books due July 1st. Committee chairmen were reminded to turn in their annual reports at our May meeting as these are due June 1st.

Old business consisted of planning for the Soup Dinner and Auction to be held April 11th at the Extension Office by the Mason County Homemakers. The meal will be served starting at 5:00 p.m. with the auction of baskets to begin approximately at 6:30 p.m. Please make every effort to attend this fun event knowing that proceeds will split between Ovarian Cancer Research and the Mason County Scholarship Fund. We also mentioned the yard sale is rapidly approaching. Items may be dropped off at the Extension Office on Thursday April 30th and May 1st between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. The yard sale will be May 2nd starting at 8:00. Start looking in

your closets and donate your unwanted items. There will also be a bake sale on Saturday.

Plans were finalized for our semi-annual dinner to be held May 17th. We genuinely appreciate all who have supported us in the past and look forward to seeing you again. We provide a full course meal and the cost is \$10. Please see a Fernleaf Homemaker to purchase a ticket. No tickets will be sold at the door so make sure you purchase your tickets in advance.

Once again a reminder of our Annual Tea to be held June 28th with proceeds going to Cancer Fighter’s United, a cause near and dear to us. Invitations will be sent out soon.

We discussed giving a scholarship to a student in memory of one of our members, Betty Steele.

Our hostesses for this month were Betty Harris and Jeanette Tolle who gave a lovely candle to each member. Our next meeting will have to be at an alternate date as our regular meeting date is during the state meeting. Members will be notified as to the place and date.

The meeting, having no further business, was adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

OWL Club April meeting

Submitted by OWL Club Secretary Sharon Cooper

The Outgoing Working Ladies Club held its April meeting the evening of Tuesday, April 7, at Bob Evans Restaurant.

President Carla Padgett welcomed eight members present at the meeting, Laura Jefferson offered the blessing. Members then recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Sharon Cooper read the minutes of the March meeting. Motion to accept the minutes as

read was made by Laura Jefferson and seconded by Sara Fryman. The minutes were approved by all.

The treasurer’s report was given by Sara Fryman. Sheila Mineer made a motion to accept the report. Sharon Cooper seconded the motion, and the report was approved by all.

Members discussed plans for the upcoming fundraiser at the Pig Out in downtown Maysville on September 26 & 27.

This year the club will award six book scholar-

ships to local graduates. The recipients will be announced in May.

Members in attendance collected \$150 for the Lions Club Bucks for Luck in memory of Jim and Mildred Brell. A collection for the Children’s Advocacy Center will be taken at the May meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 5 at Hippie Burger.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sara Fryman. Seconded by Susan Iery. The meeting was then adjourned.

MCTC announced 57th commencement plans

Submitted by Rachel Adkins
Public and Alumni Relations Specialist

Maysville Community and Technical College will host its 57th annual commencement ceremony on Friday, May 8, at 6 p.m. in the Mason County High School Fieldhouse at 1320 US HWY 68 in Maysville, Kentucky.

Students participating in the ceremony will have completed their credentials in Summer 2025, Fall 2025, and Spring

2026. Some early walkers will officially graduate in Summer 2026.

Graduates should plan to arrive between 5 and 5:30 p.m. to check in at the registration table. At check-in, they will receive a name card and appropriate cords if they are graduating with honors (with a cumulative GPA of 3.40 or higher).

Lineup will begin at 5:30 p.m. with the ceremony beginning at 6 p.m. and lasting about 90 minutes.

“Commencement is a significant milestone

in the journeys of our students. It not only reflects their achievements and hard work, but also the support and encouragement of those who have helped them along the way. We hope our graduates and their guests enjoy this special and memorable occasion,” said Dr. Laura McCullough, President and CEO of MCTC.

For more information about graduation, visit <https://maysville.kctcs.edu/landing/graduation-info.aspx>.

Bracken County District Court

April 7, Judge Kim Leet Razor Presiding:

Shannon Faith Courtney, 49, operating motor vehicle under the influence (first offense), operating a motor vehicle under the influence (third offense), failure to appear — bench warrant issued.

Gilbert W. Hall, 67, Two counts local county ordinance, failure to appear — bench warrant issued.

Linnette H. Linville, 61, failure of owner to maintain required insurance/security (first

offense), failure to produce insurance card, failure to appear — bench warrant issued.

Hargas M. Crank, 46, trespass of key infrastructure assets (first offense), pretrial conference May 12.

David A. Hay, 72, operating motor vehicle under the influence (first offense), pretrial conference May 19.

Mary E. Hughes, 48, failure of owner to maintain required insurance/security (first offense), operating motor vehicle under the influence (first

offense), pretrial conference May 5.

Cody Sierra, 20, second-degree criminal mischief, second-degree unlawful transaction with a minor, attempted theft by unlawful taking or disposition auto, pretrial conference May 5.

Bradley William Stanton, 25, alcohol intoxication in a public place (first and second offense), second-degree disorderly conduct, harassing communications, pretrial conference April 28.

New KCTCS license plate aids student emergency funds

Submitted by Brittany Fuller

VERSAILLES, Ky. — Kentucky residents can now support students in need by selecting a Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) license plate when renewing their vehicle registration.

“With every registration, \$10 goes directly to our student emergency funds, helping remove non-academic barriers and keeping our students enrolled and on track to earn their credentials,” said Ryan Quarles, KCTCS president.

The new license plate, launched earlier this year, supports KCTCS student emergency funds including housing, food, transportation, childcare, academic supplies, utilities and medical bills. To keep this specialty plate available, KCTCS must maintain at least 500 registrations each year.

“Our hope is that Kentucky residents will help spread the word to their friends, family, and col-



Submitted by Brittany Fuller
KCTCS Welding Student and KCTCS Nursing Student hold new license plate which supports emergency funds for KCTCS students.

leagues so we can continue supporting students across the Commonwealth,” Quarles said.

For Kentucky residents who wish to donate to KCTCS without purchasing a specialty license plate,

simply inform your local county clerk’s office upon registration. Registration can be completed in office or online. For more information, visit <https://kctcs.edu/landing/kctcs-license-plate.aspx>

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