

September 2024 ISSUE

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES NEWSLETTER



Lindsay Arthur
Bourbon County Cooperative Extension Agent For Agriculture and Natural Resources



Martin-Gatton
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
University of Kentucky.

Bourbon County Extension Service
603 Millersburg Road Paris, KY 40361
Office: (859) 987-1895
Fax: (859) 987-3120
bourbon.ca.uky.edu



Cooperative Extension Service **MASTER HAYMAKER**

A 5-SESSION SERIES TO HELP YOU IMPROVE FORAGE PRODUCTION ON YOUR FARM

Sessions will begin at 5:30 pm and last approximately 2 hours
Participants must complete all 5 of the sessions to be certified

JANUARY 9TH- HARRISON CO.
JANUARY 16TH- BOURBON CO.
JANUARY 23RD- SCOTT CO.
JANUARY 30TH- HARRISON CO.
FEBRUARY 6TH- SCOTT CO.
FEBRUARY 13TH- LOUISVILLE

SOILS- HELP THEM HELP YOU
COOL SEASON FORAGES
WARM SEASON FORAGES
WEED CONTROL
FORAGE HARVESTING & STORAGE
Field trip to the National Farm Machinery Show

Registration fee:
\$50

Includes all meals, materials, farm sign, transportation and 1 meal at the National Farm Machinery Show

REGISTER BY CONTACTING YOUR LOCAL COUNTY ANR AGENT:



Bourbon

Lindsay Arthur
lindsay.arthur@uky.edu
859-987-1895



Harrison

Jessica Barnes
jessica.barnes2@uky.edu
859-234-5510



Scott

Brittany Brewer
brittany.brewer@uky.edu
502-863-0984

A Note From Your Agent:

Hello everyone and happy September!

Hopefully this month brings us cooler temperatures and a bit more precipitation. Unfortunately, because of the drought, this month's newsletter contains information on harvesting and feeding drought stressed soybeans and corn. It also contains information on numerous upcoming programs happening this fall and winter. As always, feel free to reach out with any questions or needs that you have.

Lindsay Arthur

Lindsay Arthur
Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources
Lindsay.arthur@uky.edu

Cooperative Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

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Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.



HARVESTING WEALTH FARM FINANCIAL CLASS



Learn about farm structure, filing farm taxes, ag tax exemption, and ag production loans during this free online class

Speakers

Dr. Isaacs, UK Farm Management Specialist
Jerry Pierce, KFMB Program Coordinator
Local Lenders for Production Loans



Watch parties available at the Bourbon and Clark County Extension Offices for those unable to attend online

OCTOBER 15TH AT 6PM

PLEASE CONTACT THE CLARK COUNTY OR BOURBON COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICES WITH MORE QUESTIONS!

**CLARK: 859-744-4682
BOURBON: 859-987-1895**

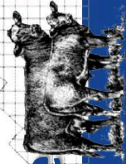
Cooperative Extension Service
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Fayette County Extension Office
1140 Harry Sykes Way
Lexington, KY 40504

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"Today's Challenges, Tomorrow's Opportunities"

Kentucky Beef Conference



October 24, 2024

10:00—Welcome & Sponsor Recognition
Beau Neal, Woodford County Agriculture & Natural Resources Extension Agent

University of KY Remarks & Welcome
Dr. Laura Stephenson, UK Director of Extension

Genomics Technology

Dr. Troy Rowan, University of Tennessee
Institute of Agriculture Beef Genetics
Extension Specialist

11:00—Marketing Update & Outlook

Dr. Kenny Burdine, UK Beef Economic
Extension Specialist

12:00 Lunch

1:00—Animal Tagging Update

Dr. Michelle Arnold, UK Extension Ruminant
Veterinarian

1:30—KY Beef Cattle Health Update

Dr. Steve Velasco, KY Department of
Agriculture State Veterinarian

2:00—Adjourn

Fayette County Extension Office
1140 Harry Sykes Way
Lexington, Kentucky 40504

9:00—10:00

Registration, visit
sponsors

\$10 registration fee

**RSVP by October 22nd
to Fayette County
Extension Office
859.254.3967**

Cooperative
Extension Service
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Fayette County Extension Office
1140 Harry Sykes Way
Lexington, KY 40504

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Harvesting Drought Stressed Soybeans as Dry Hay

If it is not possible to harvest drought stressed soybeans as baleage, they can be harvested as dry hay. However, leaf shatter during raking and baling can be high. The following tips will help to minimize leaf loss and maintain nutritive value when soybeans are conserved as dry hay.

- Mow early in the day. Mowing early in the day, just after dew has dried off, maximizes first day drying time. This shortens the curing period, reducing dry matter losses to respiration.
- Use mower-conditioner. Always use a mower-conditioner to crush stems. More roller pressure than normal will be needed to crush the larger diameter stems of soybeans.
- Adjust mower-condition to leave the widest possible swath. Make mower swaths as wide as possible to maximize surface area exposed to solar irradiation. This will shorten curing time and result in more uniform drying.
- Do not rake when leaves are dry. Raking soybean hay that is below 40% moisture will result in high levels of leaf loss. This reduces the nutritive value and palatability of the hay, and ultimately dry matter intake by livestock.
- Do NOT ted soybean hay. Tedding soybean hay will result in high levels of leaf loss. It is better to gently turn windrows over with a side delivery rake.
- Bale at 16-18% moisture. Baling hay above 18% moisture will result in mold growth, heating of hay, and reduction in nutritive value. Excessive heating can also result in hay fires.
- If hay becomes too dry, wait to bale. Soybean hay that becomes excessively dry can experience very high levels of leaf loss during baling. Leaf loss can be minimized by baling in late morning after the dew has dried off, or late evening after higher humidity levels have made leaves more pliable.
- Store hay undercover. If at all possible, store soybean hay in a shed or covered with a well secured heavy duty tarp to prevent dry matter and nutritive value losses. Like other legumes, soybean hay tends to be more susceptible to weathering than grass hay. The stems and leaves of soybeans do not shed water as readily as grass hay.



**BEEF QUALITY CARE
& ASSURANCE
(BQCA) TRAINING**

Required for Large Animal CAIP Investment Area
Thursday, September 19th
9:00 a.m.

Bourbon County
Extension Office,
603 Millersburg Rd., Paris

—

Call the Extension Office
at 859-987-1895 to
reserve a spot

—

FREE for the month of September

Growing On-feed Inventory, Lower Placements, and No Sign of Heifer Retention

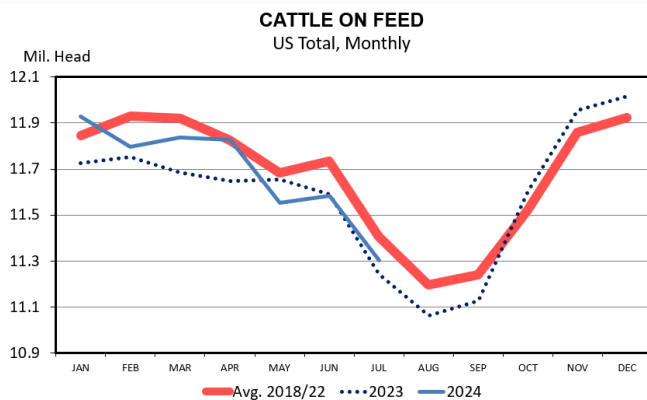
Dr. Kenny Burdine, University of Kentucky

USDA's July Cattle on Feed report was released on Friday July 19th. These monthly reports estimate inventory in US feedlots with one-time capacity exceeding 1,000 head, which represent more than 80% of total on-feed inventory in the United States. The July report is also a quarterly report that includes data on the steer-heifer mix in feedlots. This brief article will walk through last week's report and some of the implications of it.

Total on-feed inventory declined during the month of June with July 1 inventory estimated at just over 11.2 million head. This trend is normal as on-feed numbers tend to decline seasonally from winter to late summer. Compared to 2023, July 2024 inventory was about 0.5% higher. On the surface this seems odd given the recent declines in the size of calf crops, but I maintain that cheap feed and higher slaughter weights are largely the reason for this as cattle are being fed longer.

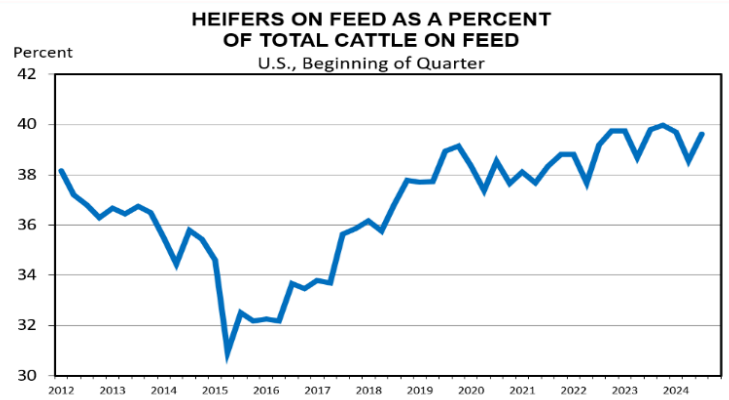
Feedlot placements have been the most interesting number to watch in recent months. For the month of June, placements were down almost 7% from last year. This contrasts with placements being 4% higher year-over-year for the month of May. These last two months illustrate why it is sometimes hard to look at things purely on a monthly basis. If I instead calculate feedlots placements for the first 6 months of 2024, as compared to the first 6 months of 2023, total placements have been down by 3.2%. This likely tells the feeder cattle supply story a bit better.

Since USDA will not be publishing a July Cattle Inventory report this year, the July steer-heifer mix on feed is especially important as it provides some perspective on heifer retention. Heifers accounted for 39.6% of on-feed inventory in July, which was higher than the previous estimate from April. If retention were occurring, one would expect the heifer percentage to be in the low-mid 30% range, so this continues to suggest that expansion is not on the near horizon.



Data Source: USDA-NASS
Livestock Marketing Information Center

CN10
07/19/24



Data Source: USDA-NASS, Compiled by LMIC
Livestock Marketing Information Center

07/19/24

Temperature and Water Use by Crops

Dr. E.B. Egli, UK Professor Emeritus

Summer is when farmers stress about the weather – when will it rain, when will it cool off? This obsession is not surprising - rain is the key to high crop yields (unless you can irrigate) and high temperatures increase water use, making rain less effective. Crops use enormous amounts of water – a well-watered corn or soybean crop can use 0.25 inches (6788 gallons per acre) or more in a day. That is an inch every 4 days that must be supplied by rain, by irrigation or by water stored in the soil to avoid stress. High temperatures make this challenging situation worse. Let's review the processes that control water use by crops to help us understand the effect of temperature. Transpiration is the movement of water vapor out of leaves through stomata, which are tiny pores in the leaf. Transpiration accounts for most of the water used by crops.

Water is also lost by evaporation from the soil, which is usually less than transpiration, especially when the soil surface is dry or when crop leaves completely cover the soil. The combined loss is called evapotranspiration (ET). Transpiration occurs when water in the leaf evaporates, and the vapor moves out of the leaf by diffusion. The rate of diffusion depends upon the amount of water vapor in the air inside the leaf vs. the amount in the air surrounding the leaf. Diffusion occurs only when there is a gradient in water vapor concentration between the air inside the leaf and the outside air. Air inside the leaf is saturated with water vapor, but the atmosphere is usually not saturated (relative humidity < 100%) providing the gradient that drives transpiration. The larger the gradient, the higher the rate of transpiration. Transpiration will be higher if the air is dry (low relative humidity - larger gradient) than if the relative humidity is high (smaller gradient).

Temperature affects transpiration by changing the gradient from inside the leaf to the atmosphere. Increasing temperature increases the gradient and transpiration. The same logic applies to evaporation from the soil. The temperature effect is significant – increasing the temperature from 68 to 86°F increases the gradient by 1.8 times or more depending on changes in relative humidity of the air surrounding the leaf. A further increase in temperature to 104°F increases the gradient by 1.7 to 2.4 times over the gradient at 86°F. Increasing the temperature from 86°F, a fairly normal summer temperature, to 104°F would roughly double the gradient and significantly increase the rate of transpiration if plenty of water is available to the crop. Wind also affects transpiration by influencing the water vapor gradient between the leaf and the air. In still air, the water vapor that diffuses out of the leaf increases the water vapor content of the air next to the leaf which reduces the gradient and reduces transpiration. Wind sweeps the water vapor away from the leaf, maintaining the gradient and the rate of transpiration. It takes a lot of energy to evaporate water (585 calories per g) – which is why transpiration is so effective in cooling the plant.

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When a lack of water limits ET, some of the energy that would have been used to evaporate water heats the plant and the air. Air and plant temperatures are usually higher during a drought. Plants in a desert can actually be cooled below air temperature by high transpiration rates resulting from the dry air and the large gradient. Climate change and the resulting higher temperatures will increase water use by crops which will, in turn, cause a more rapid depletion of the soil moisture reservoir causing stress. High temperatures increase ET, deplete the soil water reservoir faster, and the lack of water makes it hotter. Isn't that a kick in the head?

The size of the soil moisture reservoir plays a critical role in matching the intermittent supply of water (rain + irrigation) with the relentless daily demand from ET. It is not surprising that soils that store large amounts of water often produce the highest yields. The increasing temperatures associated with climate change will increase ET making the size of the soil moisture reservoir even more important. "Human vanity can best be served by a reminder that, whatever his accomplishments, his sophistication, man owes his very existence to a six-inch layer of topsoil – and the fact that it rains." (Richard L. Evans, 1906 – 1971, author and radio personality).

UK
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

**ANNUAL FARM
FIELD DAY**

Tuesday, September 24th, 2024
Resting Acres Angus
336 Gay Road Paris, KY 40361

USDA Farm Service Agency
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

USDA NRCS
Natural Resources Conservation Service

4:30 PM - Registration

5:00 PM - Welcome, Lindsay Arthur - Bourbon County ANR Extension Agent

5:35 PM - Rotating Wagon Ride Sessions Begin
On Farm Watering System - McFarland Family & NRCS
Pond Management Overview- Forrest Wynne, KSU State Extension Specialist for Aquaculture
Grazing cover crops - Dr. Jimmy Henning, UKY Forage Specialist

7:00 PM - Meal Catered by Craig Jones

SPONSORED BY:

Bourbon County Farm Bureau
Farm Credit

Blue Grass Federal
Central KY Ag Credit
Bluegrass Stockyard

Paris Stockyard
Harrison Harvesting

Traditional Bank
Meade Tractor
Stock Yards Bank & Trust

Please RSVP by 9/20 by calling 859-987-1895
or 859-987-2311, extension 3



RINSE AND RETURN PROGRAM

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH
10AM-12PM**

The Rinse and Return Program is a voluntary, cooperative program sponsored by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and the Agri-Business Association of Kentucky (ABAK). Other partners include the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service, which helps coordinate the Program on a county level, Farm Bureau, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service and the local conservation districts, and the Ag Container Recycling Council. Due to the materials previously held by these pesticide containers they cannot be recycled with your ordinary household plastics. This program allows for the proper recycling of these pesticide containers.

Be sure to triple rinse all chemical containers before bringing them to the Extension Office:

- Remove cover from container. Empty the pesticide into the spray tank and let the container drain for 30 seconds.
- Fill the container 10% to 20% full of water or rinse solution.
- Secure the cover on the container.
- Swirl the container to rinse all inside surfaces.
- Remove cover from the container. Add the rinsate from the container to sprayer tank and let drain for 30 seconds or more.
- Repeat steps 2 through 5 two more times.
- Puncture container.

PARIS RECYCLING CENTER

219 EAST 19TH ST. PARIS, KY. 40361

2024 CENTRAL KENTUCKY HAY CONTEST

Is your hay the best?

Testing provides nutritional value of hay to assist in balancing rations, and can result in reduced feed cost, increased animal performance, and information to improve forage stands.

**Free analysis to determine hay quality
for livestock needs.**

**To register email
lindsay.arthur@uky.edu
or call 859-987-1895**



**DEADLINE TO REGISTER:
OCTOBER 7, 2024**



**Cooperative
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Agriculture and Natural Resources
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Disability
accommodated
with prior notification.

Considerations for harvesting drought-stressed corn to feed to cattle

Donna Amaral-Phillips, Jeff Lehmkuhler, and Chad Lee
Extension Dairy Specialist, Extension Beef Specialist and Extension Agronomist,
University of Kentucky

Even with recent rains, some corn was too damaged by droughts to produce adequate yields. Some drought-stressed corn can be salvaged as cattle feed. Here are some things to consider if harvesting drought-stressed corn.

When Considering Your Harvest Options:

1. If corn is going to be fed as green chop, grazed, or as hay, test for nitrates before harvest to be sure the crop will be safe to feed. For corn harvested properly as silage or baleage and which goes through a good fermentation, nitrate levels could decrease 30 to 50% and can be tested after fermentation and before being fed. If you need to decide which corn fields to harvest as silage or hay, testing before harvesting will allow one to determine which fields need to be harvested as silage (those higher in nitrates) and those with safe levels of nitrates which can be harvested as corn hay. For sorghums and sorghum-sudangrasses, nitrates should be tested before harvest to be safe for your harvest method.
2. Check herbicide withdrawals to make sure the crop can be fed to livestock. Read the herbicide labels to identify if feeding restrictions are in place.
3. Raise the cut height—nitrates are highest in the plant stem closer to the ground. This may be more difficult if using a disc mower or other hay equipment for the purpose of making hay or baleage.
4. If at all possible, harvest as silage and let ferment for 4 to 6 weeks before feeding. You may want to consider using a silage inoculant. Again, test for nitrates before feeding.
5. Immature corn will be more variable in nutrient content than “normal corn silage”. After harvest, test the forage for its nutrient content and develop and feed a balanced ration to your cattle. Making a yield estimate prior to cutting corn will be a challenge if corn is harvested before the dent stage.
6. Watch the moisture content of the crop closely. Corn silage should be harvested between 62-65% moisture (35-38% dry matter). A small amount can be chopped to determine the current moisture content. Corn is drying down quickly in parts of Kentucky. Use a Koster tester (preferred) or microwave (acceptable, but be prepared to buy a new one for the house) to determine the actual moisture content. Silage and baleage need to be correct moisture to ferment properly and make good feed. Corn silage harvested at or less than 60% moisture (at or greater than 40% dry matter) results in a lower animal performance and should be avoided.
7. Tonnage may be low. Most corn is harvested for silage when the kernel is between $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ milkline . In a healthy cornfield, the ear will make up half the total silage weight. Corn harvested before seed development will be much lighter.
8. Corn harvested early for silage will not have as much grain and the energy value of the subsequent silage will be less than normal. If the corn is severely drought-stressed, it will not make full kernels anyhow, and silage is an excellent option, but it will have a different feed value than “normal” corn silage. The corn silage should be sampled for nutrient analysis after fermentation and cattle rations should be adjusted accordingly.

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9. Can you add enough water at the bagger or silo blower to increase the moisture content of the silage? For each 1% increase in moisture content, approximately 7 gallons of water is needed per ton. A typical garden hose delivers approximately 8-10 gallons per minute. Thus, it is nearly impossible to deliver enough water to make a difference. For example, to increase the moisture content from 45% moisture (55% dry matter) to 60% moisture (40% dry matter) for a wagon load of silage (4 ton capacity), you need to add 420 gallons of water. That is not feasible!!

Can you make baleage out of corn? Yes- but moisture and other harvesting techniques are important.

1. Moisture content needs to be between 30 to 50% for baleage. Getting the crop at the moisture content can be very challenging.
2. Plant material needs to be crimped and/or conditioned before baling. Conditioning is a must to get the crop to ferment. Using a rotary mower (i.e. bushhog) may also work but make sure the blades are sharp to reduce shredding of the corn plant. If your baler has knives, they can be used to chop the corn plant.
3. Newer balers work the best. This is a very coarse crop that is tough on hay equipment and some older style balers may have difficulty handling the crop.
4. Inoculant can be added at the baler, if you are equipped to handle this.
5. Wrap with at least 2 extra layers of plastic for a total of 7 layers of plastic due to corn stalks puncturing the plastic.
6. Net wrap may work better than string tie balers. If you use a string tie baler, additional wraps of string should be used.

Can you make hay out of the crop? YES--- BUT

1. Nitrates will not decrease from the standing crop. The crop needs to undergo normal fermentation to decrease the level of nitrates. Hay does not ferment!!! If nitrates are high in the standing crop, they will not decrease with harvest and hay storage.
2. Whole plant moisture needs to be about 15% for hay. If the crop is harvested with over 18% moisture, it will heat and make a very poor feed. It can spontaneously combust if too wet and goes through a heat.
3. Corn stalks protein and energy content will vary. Bales should be sampled for nutrient analysis and the hay may require supplementation depending on the cattle being fed.

Can you graze the corn left standing in the field? YES-BUT

1. Fencing and watering is a necessity for the livestock.
2. Strip-grazing is needed to reduce the risk of foundering/acidosis. Cattle will quickly learn to consume the ears first increasing starch intake. Using strip-grazing will increase intakes of leaves and upper portion of the stalk to reduce grain intake.
3. Consider a grass area for cattle to loaf/lay.
4. Provide free-choice access to hay. This will increase fiber intake and lower the risk of rumen digestive disorders. Hay intake can also be used as a gauge of corn allocation. As cattle consume more hay, this could mean they have consumed as much of the leaves, stalks, and ears from the area provided and a new section of standing corn should be provided.
5. Nitrate toxicity is a risk. However, most of the nitrates are in the lower portion of the stalk that cattle tend to avoid consuming.
6. Have a pasture area to move cattle to during periods of high precipitation to limit compaction.

Plate it Up

Kentucky Proud Recipe



Corn and Sweet Potato Confetti Salad

3 cups sweet potato, peeled and diced	2 green bell peppers, diced	1 tablespoon olive oil
3½ cups cut fresh corn kernels (7 ears) or frozen corn kernels	1 red bell pepper, diced	½ cup cider vinegar
	1 small red onion, diced	½ teaspoon salt

Bring one cup of water to boil in a 2 quart saucepan; **add** diced sweet potatoes. **Cook** sweet potatoes 10 minutes or until slightly tender. **Drain** and set aside. **Remove** shuck and silk from fresh corn ears; **cut** kernels from cob. **Dice** peppers and red onion. **Heat** olive oil in a large skillet on medium setting; **add** sweet potatoes and **cook** until slightly browned. **Add** peppers; **cook** 5 minutes; **add** corn kernels,

cooking until tender. **Combine** red onion and cider vinegar in large bowl; **add** skillet vegetables; **toss** and salt to taste. **Serve** warm or refrigerate for chilled version.

Yield: 16, ½ cup servings

Nutritional Analysis: 70 calories, 1.5 g fat, 0 g saturated fat, 0 mg cholesterol, 95 mg sodium, 13 g carbohydrate, 2 g fiber, 4 g sugars, 2 g protein.



Buying Kentucky Proud is easy. Look for the label at your grocery store, farmers' market, or roadside stand.

Kentucky Sweet Corn

SEASON: July through August.

NUTRITION FACTS: Corn is low in fat and is a good source of fiber and B vitamins. A half cup serving of corn contains 90 calories.

SELECTION: Look for ears with green shucks, moist stems and silk that is free of decay. Kernels should be small, tender, plump and milky when pierced. They should fill up all the spaces in the rows.

STORAGE: Keep unshucked, fresh corn in the refrigerator until ready to use. Wrap ears in damp paper towels and place in a plastic bag for 4 to 6 days.

PREPARATION:

To microwave: Place ears of corn, still in the husk, in a single layer, in the microwave. Cook on high for 2 minutes for one ear, adding 1 minute per each additional ear. Turn the ears after 1 minute. Let corn set for several minutes before removing the shucks and silks.

Source: www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov

To boil: Remove shucks and silks. Trim stem ends. Carefully place ears in a large pot of boiling water. Cook 2-4 minutes or until kernels are tender.

To grill: Turn back the shucks and remove silks. Sprinkle each ear with 2 tablespoons of water and nonfat seasoning such as salt, pepper or herbs. Replace shucks and tie them shut with a string that has been soaked in water. Place ears on a hot grill for 20 to 30 minutes, turning often.

KENTUCKY SWEET CORN

Kentucky Proud Project

County Extension Agents for Family and Consumer Sciences
University of Kentucky, Dietetics and Human Nutrition students
June 2014

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