

# NIKKI'S NEWSLETTER

 University of Kentucky  
College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment

Cooperative Extension Service  
University of Kentucky  
Marshall County  
1933 Mayfield Highway  
Benton, KY 42025  
(270) 527-3285  
extension.ca.uky.edu

## Marshall County's Agriculture and Natural Resources Update

Happy February! There is a lot to talk about. Firstly, don't forget to take advantage of these previously advertised programs:

- **Private Applicator**, 8:30am on 2/23 and 3/23
- Clarks River **Beekeeper's** Meetings, 2nd Tuesday Night Monthly at 6pm
- Adult Farmer Grain Grower's Series on Feb. 28th. The topic is: **How Far to Push Your Soil Fertility Bank**, Edwin Ritchey, UK Specialist



**Secondly, the RAISING THE STEAKS BEEF DINNER on March 3rd has been postponed!!!** The Calloway County Cattleman are doing a Heifer Development Workshop that night and I want you all to have the opportunity to attend. See page 5 for details. Unfortunately, due to scheduling restrictions, the Raising the Steaks Meeting will have to wait until this summer. Sorry for any inconvenience.

Thirdly, the USDA is announcing another **CRP (Conservation Reserve Program)** signup for 2022. The signup will be open from Jan. 31st through March 11th. So, what's CRP? In general, CRP compensates those who establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species with the intent to control soil erosion, improve water quality and enhance wildlife habitat on cropland. The best way to reach the Marshall County FSA right now is by calling (270) 527-3231.

Fourthly, **Avian flu** has been detected in Fulton County and can be very dangerous to both backyard and commercial birds. If you own **poultry** then you need to checkout: [www.kyagr.com/ky-agnews/press-releases/2022/Virus-deadly-to-poultry-detected-in-Kentucky-flock.html](http://www.kyagr.com/ky-agnews/press-releases/2022/Virus-deadly-to-poultry-detected-in-Kentucky-flock.html)

Fifthly, UK Ag Econ will be partnering with the Kentucky Beef Network to offer a Virtual **Backgrounding / Stocker Profitability Conference** on three consecutive evenings, March 22-24. Each session will begin at 6:00 pm and run until 7:30 or 8:00pm. Register here: [www.cvent.com/c/calendar/6751b7e3-e8f1-44c5-83cd-c2ad73e5618a](http://www.cvent.com/c/calendar/6751b7e3-e8f1-44c5-83cd-c2ad73e5618a)

Sixthly, Need **Dicamba Training**? This link will take you to the Bayer Dicamba Training website where you can register for live webinars being held every Wednesday in February. We are still waiting to see what Syngenta and BASF will provide. [roundupreadyxtend.com/stewardship/pages/default.aspx](http://roundupreadyxtend.com/stewardship/pages/default.aspx)

Seventhly, **2022 Farm Bill Crop Election:** To "ARC-Co" or to "PLC?" That is the question! The verdict is simple this year. Prices will really have to fall off for PLC to be a valid option for any of our crops. If the prices do drop, Arc-Co will give us some protection on the way back down with both yield and price, as it is based on revenue generated with county yields as opposed to marketing year average prices like PLC. Therefore, I would consider switching all our crops to Arc-Co. Please let me know if you would like more information.

I hope this newsletter finds you all well! You know where to find me.

## IN THIS ISSUE:



### GENERAL

- P. 2. DIRECT MARKET FARMER DIRECTORY
- P.7 AG SALES TAX UPDATE



### HORTICULTURE

- P. 2 LUNCH BREAK GARDENING
- P. 7 DON'T FORGET YOU CAN COMPOST IN WINTER
- P.8 SPRING INTO THE PRODUCT SEASON: FARMING VEGETABLES



### CROPS

- P. 4 GRAIN GROWER'S NIGHT OUT



### LIVESTOCK

- P.3 SMALL DIVERSIFIED FARM: BACKYARD MEATS
- P.5 HEIFER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP
- P. 6 MASTER FINISHER
- P.8 RAISING BACKYARD CHICKENS
- P. 8-9 FROST SEEDING CLOVER



### RECIPE OF THE MONTH

- P.10 FIESTA POTATOES

# Grown, Sold and Bought Locally: 2022 Direct Market Farmer's Directory

*Roxanne Lee, Extension Program Assistant*

The time is almost here when we will be updating our Direct Marketing "Farmer's Directory" for 2022. The directory was a big hit last year, helping to boost sales for our local growers. Please find enclosed in this newsletter a form you can fill out that includes: Name of business, phone number (contact info), general location (Benton, Calvert City, Aurora, etc.), crop you plan on having available, and what months of the year it will be available. We know unexpected things can happen but if you plan to grow and sell an item to the public, then list it. When they call you can always tell them it didn't produce but I have.... We want your list to include everything you grow and sell directly to the consumer. This is just one way we can help consumers to buy locally. If you have a friend who was not listed last year, just have them contact the Marshall County Extension Office (270) 527-3285 and we will be happy to help get them listed this year OR for more information. This is a FREE service to our growers and the copies of the directory are FREE to the public. Everyone Wins – Grown, Sold and Bought Locally.



## Lunch Break Gardening Series

**UK** University of  
Kentucky  
College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment



March 2nd's Topic:  
**Worm Composting**

Join Master Gardener, Melanie Brandon, as she teaches us how to raise nutrient rich worm castings anywhere!

Join us during your  
lunch break for a  
gardening workshop!

**\$10**

Includes a boxed lunch  
from café celebre'

1st Wednesday Monthly  
12:15-12:45pm  
at the Marshall County  
Extension Office



RSVP by Feb. 28th  
Call 270-527-3285

Cooperative Extension Service  
Agriculture and Natural Resources  
Family and Consumer Science  
4-H Youth Development  
Community and Economic Development

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension 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 expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability. UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY, KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND KENTUCKY COUNTIES, COOPERATING  
LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Cooperative Extension Service  
Marshall County Office  
1933 Mayfield Highway  
Benton, KY 42025  
270-527-3285

---

# SMALL DIVERSIFIED FARM SERIES

## HOMESTEADING FOR PROFIT

---



College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment  
Cooperative Extension Service

### BACKYARD MEAT ANIMALS

GRAND RIVERS COMMUNITY CENTER  
155 W CUMBERLAND AVE  
GRAND RIVERS, KY

**FEBRUARY 24, 2022**  
**6 PM**

*Speaker- Kevin Laurent, Extension Beef Specialist-  
Join us as we discuss the ins and outs of raising meat  
animals, specifically beef and swine, on small acreage.  
Kevin will discuss nutrition needs and animal health  
related items that should be taken into consideration.*

CALL YOUR COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE TO REGISTER:

CALDWELL: 270-365-2787

CALLOWAY: 270-753-1452

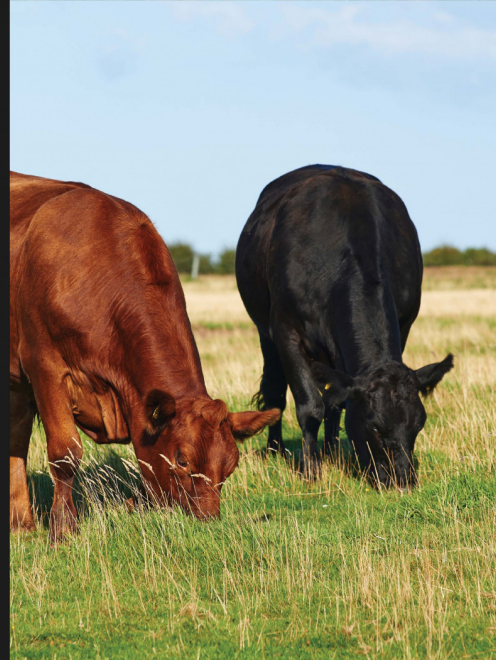
CRITTENDEN: 270-965-5236

LIVINGSTON: 270-928-2168

MARSHALL: 270-527-3285

MCCRACKEN: 270-554-9520

TRIGG: 270-522-3269



The College of Agriculture, Food and Environment is an Equal Opportunity Organization with respect to education and employment and authorization to provide research, education information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to economic or social status and will not discriminate on the bases of race, color, ethnic origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability. Inquiries regarding compliance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and other related matter should be directed to Equal Opportunity Office, College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, University of Kentucky, Room S-105, Agriculture Science Building, North Lexington, Kentucky 40546, the UK Office of Institutional Equity and Equal Opportunity, 13 Main Building, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0032 or US Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250

# Grain Grower's Night Out

*Marshall County Extension's annual update for grain growers. Join us for dinner and discussion on the hottest topics facing grain growers!*

## Carbon Markets

Are carbon markets the newest way to cash in on practices you are already doing?

## Grain Bag Storage Systems

Advantages, disadvantages and economic costs for bag storage systems for grain

## New Soybean Disease

Disease update and overview of Red Crown, which was found in Kentucky for the first time last season in Graves Co.

March 24th  
5:30-7:30pm  
Marshall County  
Extension Office  
1933 Mayfield Hwy.  
Benton, KY 42025

Meal graciously  
provided by:



Please RSVP by calling (270) 527-3285



# Calloway County Cattlemen's 2022 Heifer Workshop



**March 3rd 2022**

- Heifer Development-
- Evaluating Heifer's for Structure-
- Tailhead Bleeding Demo-
- Pelvic Measurement Demo-
- Chute-Side Evaluations-
- Live Cattle & Hands on Event-

To register please contact the  
Calloway County Extension Office:  
270-753-1452

Location: MSU Expo Center- College  
Farm Rd.- Murray, KY  
Date: March 3rd, 2022  
Time: 6:00pm (Dinner Provided)

Thank you to our sponsors:



University of Kentucky  
College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment  
Cooperative Extension Service

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

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension 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 expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability. University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.  
LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification.



University of Kentucky  
College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment  
Cooperative Extension Service  
*Agriculture and Natural Resources*



# Master Beef Finisher

First in person session:

March 1st

6 PM

Grand Rivers Community Center  
155 W Cumberland Ave  
Grand Rivers, KY

The master finisher program has been designed for producers interested in finishing beef cattle on their operation, as well as those who have already been doing so.

CALDWELL: 270-365-2787  
CALLOWAY: 270-753-1452  
CRITTENDEN: 270-965-5236  
LIVINGSTON: 270-928-2168

LYON: 270-388-2341  
MARSHALL: 270-527-3285  
MCCRACKEN: 270-554-9520  
TRIGG: 270-522-3269

# Update on Agriculture Sales Tax Exemption on Farm Purchases

*Jerry Pierce, UK Agriculture Economics Program Coordinator*

The application deadline for farms with existing Exemption Certificates on file with farm suppliers was January 1, 2022. Applications are still being accepted for existing farms. However, the Kentucky Department of Revenue may not be able to issue an Agriculture Exemption Number for late applications before the current Exemption Certificates expire. That could cause a lapse in sales tax exemption this year. The existing Exemption Certificates are valid through June 30, 2022. Farmers who missed the deadline should apply as soon as possible. Farms that do not have existing Exemption Certificates should also apply as soon as possible in order to qualify for the sales tax exemption.

Kentucky law now requires that farmers apply to the Kentucky Department of Revenue for an Agriculture Exemption Number to qualify for exemption from sales tax on qualified purchases for the farm. For more information, instructions, and link to the application see the earlier article "Agriculture Exemption Number Now Required for Tax Exemption on Farm Purchases."

---

## Don't Forget! You Can Compost in Winter

*Faye Kuosman, UK Extension Horticulture Agent*

Now that winter is here, are you continuing to compost? Some people give up the exercise in winter due to cold temperatures and will resume again in the spring when it warms up. Just because it is cold outside, you probably still have plenty of compostable kitchen items, and you can continue to successfully compost in winter regardless of the temperature. Composting provides you with a rich, organic material to spread on your soil to aid in crop growth. Since many compostable items come from leftover food scraps, you are reducing your environmental footprint by keeping unnecessary trash out of the landfills when you compost.

Even if you are new to composting, you can pick up the practice in winter. The decomposition process obviously slows down when the temperatures drop, but it doesn't completely come to a halt, or at least not for long. Bacteria, fungi and other microbes, as well as large decomposers like earthworms and insects, will survive year-round in compost piles. They will begin to break down organic matter when things warm up again. Decomposition will completely stop when everything in a compost pile is frozen. But if your compost pile or bin is large enough, the organic matter inside should stay warm enough to avoid freezing and will allow decomposition to occur, even in winter.

You might want to gather leaves or pine needles in the fall for use in composting. Leaves and pine needles are excellent brown, carbon-rich materials that can improve compost pile aeration and reduce odors. Stockpile leaves in yard waste bags or bins throughout the year for use later in compost. Try to keep leaves from getting wet and matting together. If you don't have access to large amounts of leaves, try to stockpile other brown materials such as straw, sawdust, woodchips or shredded paper.

It is important to harvest finished compost to make room for the materials you add in winter. Compost can pile up quickly in winter because decomposition is very slow. It is especially important to harvest if you are composting in small bins or tumblers. Compost is ready to use if the original materials are not recognizable and the compost is dark and crumbly with an earthy odor. Compost can be spread on your garden, or saved for use in the spring. It may be helpful to keep the finished compost in containers with lids or cover with a tarp to keep it from getting wet. Do not worry about turning the compost pile in winter, like you would in the warmer months. Turning it in winter will result in heat loss in the interior of the pile. It will slow the decomposition process. Instead wait until spring to turn the pile when it is completely thawed. Contact Marshall County office of the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service for information on composting in winter.



## WEBINAR SERIES: RAISING PUREBRED CHICKENS

Pre-registration for each webinar is required. More information on each webinar and links to register available on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/KentuckyPoultry>  
Individual links given below for those not on Facebook

**MARCH 8 @ 7PM Eastern Time**

Topic: Introduction to poultry genetics

<https://uky.zoom.us/join/96258416225>

**MARCH 15 @ 7PM Eastern Time**

Topic: Genetics of combs, plumage, eggshell color, etc.

<https://uky.zoom.us/join/96258416225>

**MARCH 22 @ 7PM Eastern Time**

Topic: Breeding programs and selecting breeders

<https://uky.zoom.us/join/96258416225>

**MARCH 29 @ 7PM Eastern Time**

Topic: Incubation and operating a hatchery in Kentucky

<https://uky.zoom.us/join/96258416225>

WEBINARS PRESENTED BY

Drs. Jacquie Jacob and Tony Pescatore  
Department of Animal and Food Sciences, UKY



A UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY &  
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE COLLABORATION

## SPRING INTO THE PRODUCTION SEASON

Register for one or more sessions here:

<https://tinyurl.com/4k899hnn>

**Tuesdays on Zoom from 6-7:30 PM EST**

**February 15-** Tools & equipment for vegetable production

**March 1-** Ins and outs of fertilizers and soil fertility for organic vegetable production

**March 15-** Tomato grafting & root-knot nematode management

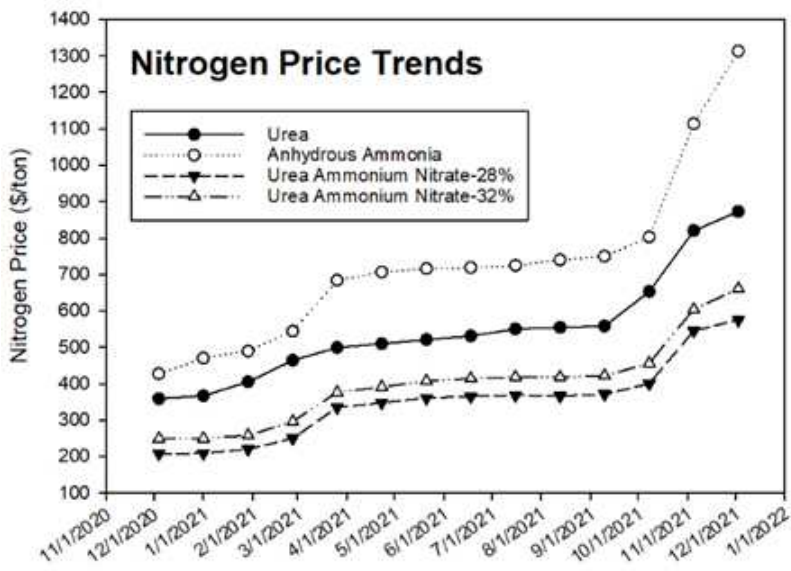
**March 29-** High tunnel crop rotation



# Frost Seeding Clover: Getting it Right!

Chris Teutch, UK Forage Specialist

Legumes play in sustainable grassland ecosystems. This is especially true at current fertilizer prices. Nitrogen prices have continued to increase (Figure 1). Currently, one pound of nitrogen as urea is coming in at \$0.95. The following article provides some practical suggestions for establishing and maintaining legumes in your pastures.



Soil test and adjust fertility. In order for clover and other improved legumes to persist and thrive in pastures, we must create an environment conducive to their growth. This starts with soil fertility. Prior to frost seeding clover, lime and fertilize pastures according to soil test recommendations.

Suppress sod and decrease residue. The existing sod must be suppressed and plant residue reduced prior to frost seeding. The reduction in plant residue allows seed to reach the soil surface where it can be incorporated by freezing and thawing events. Sod suppression and residue reduction is best accomplished by hard grazing in late fall and early winter.



## Frost Seeding Clover Continued:

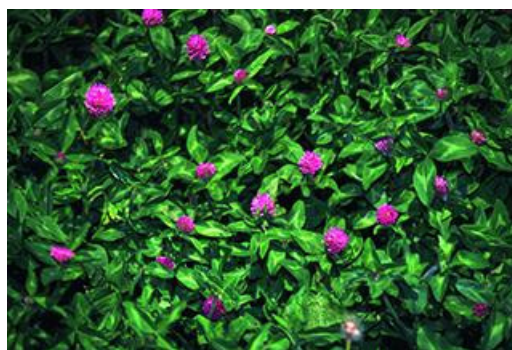
Ensure good soil-seed contact. Good soil-seed contact is required for seed germination and emergence. In frost seedings, this occurs when freezing and thawing cycles form cracks in the soil surface, often referred to as a honeycomb.

Seed on Proper Date. Frost seeding is best accomplished in late winter or very early spring (February and early March). Frost seeding is accomplished by simply broadcasting the seed on the soil surface and allowing the freezing and thawing cycles to incorporate the seed into the soil. Success with frost seeding can be enhanced by dragging your pasture as or immediately after or as you broadcast the seed.

Use High-Quality Seed and Adapted Varieties. Use either certified or proprietary seed to ensure high germination, seed genetics, and low noxious weed content. Do NOT use VNS or Variety Not Stated seed since there is no way to tell how it will perform in Kentucky.

Choose clover varieties that have been tested in Kentucky. The University of Kentucky has one of the most extensive variety testing programs in the country. The 2021 variety testing results can be found on the UK Forage Extension website or by visiting your local extension office.

Use correct seeding rate. In Kentucky, a good mixture for frost seeding is 6-8 lb/A of red clover, 1-2 lb/A of ladino or grazing white clover. On rented farms or where soil fertility is marginal, adding 10-15 lb/A of annual lespedeza to this mixture can be beneficial.



Calibrate seeding equipment. Maintain and calibrate seeding equipment prior to seeding. Several approaches to calibrating small spinner seeders or no-till drills can be viewed on the KYForages YouTube Channel.

Inoculate Legume Seed. Most improved clover seed comes with a clay-based coating that contains inoculant. Make sure that the seed is fresh and has not been stored under adverse conditions. If the seed is not pre-inoculated, inoculate it with the proper strain of nitrogen fixing bacteria prior to seeding. This is relatively inexpensive insurance that legume roots will be well nodulated and efficient nitrogen fixation will take place.

Control Seeding Depth. Small-seeded forages should be placed than 1/4 to 1/2 inch deep. If using a drill always check seeding depth since it will vary with seedbed condition and soil moisture status. Placing small-seeded forages too deep will universally result in stand failures. Since frost seeding broadcasts the seed on top of the soil, this problem is minimized.

Check seed distribution pattern. When using a spinner type spreader/seeder make sure and check you spreading pattern. In many cases small-seeded forages are not thrown as far as you think. This can result in clover strips in your pastures rather than a uniform stand.

Use GPS guidance to eliminate overlaps and misses. A recent study conducted at UK Research and Education Center in Princeton found that frost seeding without GPS Guidance resulted in a 35% overlap. Using GPS guidance reduced the overlap to 3%. At an overlap of 20% and an overseeding cost of \$30/A, a portable GPS unit will pay for itself in less than 250 acres.

Control Post-Seeding Competition. Not controlling post-seeding competition is one of the most common causes of stand failures. One of the best management practices is to leave cattle on pastures that have been overseeded with clover until the clover seedlings get tall enough to get grazed off. Then remove animals from the pasture and allow that clover to reach a height of 6-8 inches. At that time the paddock can be placed back into the rotation. If the existing vegetation is not controlled, the new clover seedlings will be shaded out.

# Fiesta Potatoes



<b>8</b> small to medium russet potatoes, peeled and diced	<b>1</b> medium onion, chopped	parsley, chopped
<b>1</b> green bell pepper, chopped	<b>1</b> cup Mexican blend cheese, shredded	<b>1 tablespoon</b> dried basil, crushed
<b>1</b> red bell pepper, chopped	<b>½ cup</b> margarine, melted	<b>¾ teaspoon</b> salt
	<b>½ cup</b> low-fat milk	<b>¼ teaspoon</b> black pepper
	<b>2 tablespoons</b> fresh	

**Preheat** oven to 350 degrees F. **Place** the potatoes, bell peppers and onion in a medium pan and cover with water.

**Place** over high heat and bring to a **boil**. **Reduce** heat and **simmer** 12-15 minutes, or until vegetables are tender.

**Drain** the vegetables and **place** in a mixing bowl. **Stir** in the cheese, margarine, milk and seasonings until combined. **Spread** the mixture in a

9-by-13-inch baking pan that has been sprayed with a non-stick coating. **Bake** for about 20 minutes or until bubbly.

**Yield:** 12, ½ cup servings

**Nutritional Analysis:** 200 calories, 9 g fat, 2 g saturated fat, 5 mg cholesterol, 370 mg sodium, 24 g carbohydrates, 3 g fiber, 3 g sugar, 9 g protein.

# Kentucky Potatoes

**SEASON:** Late June to October

**NUTRITION FACTS:** Potatoes are a good source of vitamins B and C, potassium and complex carbohydrates. They do not contain fat, cholesterol or sodium. There is only 70 calories in a ½ cup serving of cooked potato. Most nutrients are located just below the skin, so avoid peeling whenever possible.

**SELECTION:** Select firm potatoes free from wrinkles, green spots or bruises. New potatoes are immature potatoes of any variety. They are creamy, thin-skinned and small enough to serve whole. New potatoes are best in dishes that call for boiled potatoes as they will hold their shape. For baking, frying and mashing choose drier varieties such as russet or Yukon Gold.

**Source:** [www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov](http://www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov)

**STORAGE:** Potatoes should be kept in a cool, humid, dark, well ventilated place. Do not store in the refrigerator.

**PREPARATION:** Potatoes should be thoroughly washed and scrubbed before cooking. Any sprouts or eyes should be cut out. Common methods of preparation include boiling, baking, microwaving, mashing, frying and grilling.

## KENTUCKY POTATOES

### Kentucky Proud Project

County Extension Agents for Family and Consumer Sciences

University of Kentucky, Dietetics and Human Nutrition students

November 2015

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of race, color, age, sex, religion, disability, or national origin. For more information, contact your county's Extension agent for Family and Consumer Sciences or visit [www.uky.ag/fcs](http://www.uky.ag/fcs)

COOPERATIVE  
EXTENSION  
SERVICE

**UK**  
UNIVERSITY OF  
KENTUCKY  
College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment

For more information go to:

<http://marshall.ca.uky.edu/AgNaturalResources>  
or follow us on Facebook @marshallcountyanr

*Nikki Rhein*  
Marshall County  
Agriculture and Natural  
Resources Agent

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension 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 expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability. UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY, KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND KENTUCKY COUNTIES, COOPERATING