

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Lunch n' Learn: Preparing your Garden for Spring**

**December 10th: 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM CST**

Russell County Public Library  
535 N. Main Street, Jamestown, KY 42642

### **South-Central Kentucky Hay Contest**

**Awards and Educational Program**

**December 10th: 5 PM CST**

Casey County Extension Office Educational  
Building

1517 S. Wallace Wilkinson Blvd.  
Liberty, KY 42539

### **Cattleman's Meeting**

**December 10th: 6 PM CST**

South Kentucky RECC  
2405 N. Main Street, Jamestown, KY 42629

### **Lambing & Kidding School**

**December 12th: 6:00 - 8:40 PM CST**

South Kentucky RECC  
2405 N. Main Street, Jamestown, KY 42629

**NOTICE: The Russell County Extension Office will be closed on the following dates:**

**Christmas Day -  
Wednesday, December 25th and**

**December 26th, 2024 through January 1st,  
2025.**



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University of Kentucky.

## **Russell County Agriculture and Natural Resources December 2024 Newsletter**

### **In this issue...**

- Upcoming Events
- Off the Hoof: Timely Tips
- Economic Update: Fall 2024 Farm Observations
- National Weather Service: 2024-2025 Winter Outlook
- Recipe: Sweet Potato Crisp
- Flyer: Lambing and Kidding School

### **Russell County Extension Office**


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# OFF THE HOOF

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University of Kentucky  
Beef IRM Team

## **KENTUCKY BEEF CATTLE NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 1, 2024**

*Each article is peer-reviewed by UK Beef IRM Team and edited by Dr. Les Anderson, Beef Extension Specialist, Department of Animal & Food Science, University of Kentucky*

This month's newsletter includes: Timely Tips – Anderson Coping with Low Precipitation – Lehmkuhler Rethinking High-Risk Stocker Calf Management – Arnold Changes to CAIP Beef Bull Cost-share Program – Bullock

Observations from 25 Years of West Kentucky Select Bred Heifer Sales – Laurent

Beef Cattle Management Webinar Series Resumes – Bullock

Are Growth Promoting Technologies Becoming a Lost Art for the Cow-calf Sector? - VanValin

Timely Tips

*Dr. Les Anderson, Beef Extension Professor, University of Kentucky*

### Spring-calving cow herd

- If you need to replace cows, consider buying bred heifers in some of the Kentucky Certified Replacement Heifer sales that are being held across the state this month.
- Extend grazing for as long as possible to decrease the amount of stored feed needed. The drought is making this difficult for most of the state in 2024.
- Evaluate body condition of cows. Sort thin (less than body condition score 5) cows away from the cow herd and feed to improve their condition. Two and three-year olds may need extra attention now. These cattle can use the extra feed/nutrients.
- Dry cows in good condition can utilize crop residues and lower quality hay now (but don't let them lose any more body condition). Save higher quality feed until calving time. Keep a good mineral supplement with vitamin A available.
- Contact your herd veterinarian to determine pregnancy in your cows if you have not already done so. Pregnancy can also be determined using blood sampling. Several diagnostic labs will analyze blood samples for pregnancy and a chute-side test is on the market. Culling decisions should be made prior to winter feeding for best use of feed resources. Consider open, poor-producing, and aged cows as candidates for culling.
- A postweaning feeding period will allow you to put rapid, economical gains on weaned calves, keep them through the fall "runs" and allow you to participate in Kentucky CPH-45 sales. Consider this health and marketing program which is designed for producers which are doing a good job of producing high quality feeder calves.
- Replacement heifers require attention during the winter, too. Weaned heifer calves should gain at an adequate rate to attain their "target" breeding weight (2/3 of their mature weight) by May 1.

### Fall-calving herd

- Continue to watch fall-calving cows. Catch up on processing of calves including identification, castration, and vaccinations. Cows that have calved need to go to the best pastures now! Help them
- maintain body condition prior to breeding in December.
- Move cows to accumulated pasture or increase feed now. If at all possible, try to get animals vaccinated 60 days or longer before the breeding season.
- Start the breeding season in late November or early December for calving to begin in September.

# Economic & Policy Update

E-newsletter Volume 24, Issue 10

Editors: Will Snell & Nicole Atherton



Department of Agricultural Economics  
University of Kentucky

OC  
2024

## Fall 2024 Farm Observations Across Kentucky

*Author(s): Kentucky Farm Business Management*

*Published: October 31, 2024*

The observations below are from Area Extension Specialists from the [Kentucky Farm Business Management](#) (KFBM) program.

### Lincoln Trail Association

The 2024 growing season across Central Kentucky was very dry and producers were not looking forward to harvest. Harvest is well underway, and yields are better than expected for corn. Hurricane Helene brought widespread storms that resulted in patches of broken corn that could affect overall yields. In many places the corn crop cannot take another bad storm. Soybean harvest started before the rain set in, so yields are unknown. Unfortunately, there are places that soybeans are sprouting. Considering this, there will be a rush to get the crop harvested once field conditions improve. Optimism for a market price rally is absent and producers are trying to make the best of a poor situation.

On the cattle and pasture side, the rain was much needed, as producers started feeding hay weeks ago. Due to high cow prices, producers are not looking to purchase breeding stock and are planning on keeping their own replacements. Dry conditions throughout summer and early fall made hay production challenging for some producers. In parts of Central Kentucky, hay supply will be tight and will be a challenge for some to purchase.

Producers have stated they want earlier tax planning. This is a result of crop carryover for many years with some producers still having 2023 crop in the bins. Even though net farm income is projected to be lower than 2023, income tax liability will still be an issue for most.

### Purchase Association

Corn harvest has progressed quickly, yet not consistently across the area. A couple bigger farms have completed the 2024 corn harvest, while other producers had yet to begin as of early October. Planting dates were very scattered due to the wet spring. Early soybean planting was scattered into typical corn planting season, which created a wide range for when corn was planted. The wide planting range is being seen now as corn harvest is spread as well. Preliminary corn yields seem to be excellent, with a few not-so-great yields scattered in. Most of the poor corn yields can be tied back to wet planting, marginal replant decisions, and late corn planting that may have been hurt by the hot and dry conditions at the end of summer. Some of those have not been realized yet, as we wait for the corn to dry down.



The popularity of the very early soybean planting has increased, resulting in several soybean acres harvested before corn. Most of these early soybean yields have been good, with some discussions of 60- to 65-bushel/acre beans. However, this is not across the board as wet planting conditions and marginal replant decisions have come into play with the soybeans as well. There are reports of early soybean yields in the 45-bushel range. Most of the concern around production this year is the mid- to late-planted soybeans, including double crop beans. It got extremely dry at the end of the growing season. While many of the double crop soybean plants are loaded with pods, there seems to be no or very small beans inside. There was hope that the rain that finally arrived in mid-September would be in time to make a difference and help get the pods filled. However, as late September and early October passed, there were more and more yellow leaves in the soybean fields, indicating that they have shut down production. It is likely that the rain was not on time and that these later beans will not produce very well. Producers are also being hit with quality deductions at the granary, as some of the later soybeans are very small in size. One producer shared that the quality deduction costs have more than doubled from what they were two years ago. This lowers the already low prices that are being received.

Several producers have asked about wheat planting. Most are on the fence about how much wheat to plant, as projections indicate that the crop may barely break even. They have received Greg Halich's recent article on [wheat planting](#) decisions, which seems to match the projections that the farms are completing for themselves. There are several acres of canola planted in the area for those that could get in on the contracts. Others are interested in planting canola, but the acreage availability for contract is currently limited.

There have been several conversations with producers about the cash flow and income potential for 2024. Most are concerned that the prices are too low to make ends meet. Several are feeling the repercussions of the falling prices that were received for the 2023 crop, creating a loss on the 2023 crop that was not realized until 2024. Driving around the area, there are several signs for land auctions.

### Ohio Valley Association

The Ohio Valley Area includes farms in eight northwestern counties bordering or adjoining counties along the Ohio River.

Harvest is ahead of schedule in the area. Corn yields are expected to be average overall. Bean yields are showing more variance but are likely to settle at close to the 5-year average. Later planted beans could suffer yield loss depending on when the first frost comes. There is good carry in the market right now so those with storage are likely holding grain to take advantage of this. Field operations are moving along. Fall fertilizer is being applied throughout the area.

For cattle producers, hay was abundant this year and pasture conditions in the area have shown significant improvement from the rain received a few weeks ago.

Financially, it is expected to be a tight year. Grain prices are low, and interest rates are high. There has been a slowdown in equipment purchases but any items purchased have still been high priced. Working capital, which is the operation's ability to meet short-term financial obligations, continues to decline. If the operation is expected to be short on paying back their line of credit it is always best to get an estimate of how much the shortfall might be and start working with the lender sooner rather than later.

### Pennyroyal Association

Early harvest was quick work as the cooler days in August and early September, coupled with the lack of rain allowed producers to get into the field and stay there. Corn is expected to be an above-average crop with some producers having one of their best-yielding years. However, there were

producers that experienced damage and lower yields from early flooding. Some of these producers even chose to replant their corn acres in beans or opted to claim preventive planting.

Overall, the tobacco crop is expected to be better than in the last few years. Quality is expected to be good, but there are some concerns of it weighing a little light. There have also been some reports of wind and hail damage in certain areas. The hemp crop is expected to be a decent crop this year, but not as good as it was last year.

Soybean yields are questionable. Producers and agronomists alike seem to be puzzled at varying yields as early crop reports are coming in. It seems some early planted beans may have gotten too much rain, while replants, late full-season, and early double crop appeared to have suffered damage with the August/September drought. There have also been reports of soybean damage docks at the elevators.

Summer wheat harvest varied dramatically over the area. Some producers saw very little drop in yield from 2023, while others saw at least a 10-15 bushel reduction due to a late freeze and too much water. There have been reports of vomitoxin issues on several farms, while other producers have reported no issues. Another concern with the wheat crop has been low test weights.

The use of drones to apply chemicals and fertilizer is becoming a very popular topic among producers, especially tobacco producers. Many producers have started using drones in smaller fields and comparing the costs and benefits of applications by drone to those of airplane, helicopter, and traditional sprayer applications.

Producers are becoming more concerned with the current farm economy and what steps they can take to be proactive in preventing major issues on their operations. Higher interest rates over the last two years, along with lower commodity prices, have many producers taking a closer look at their net farm income and cash flow situations. Many producers have started reducing their capital purchases as one step to better their situation. Most producers continue to be concerned about tax planning.



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Recommended Citation Format:

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[Kentucky Farm Business Management \(KFBM\) Program](#)

Department of Agricultural Economics | [agecon.ca.uky.edu](http://agecon.ca.uky.edu)





## The 2024-2025 Winter Outlook

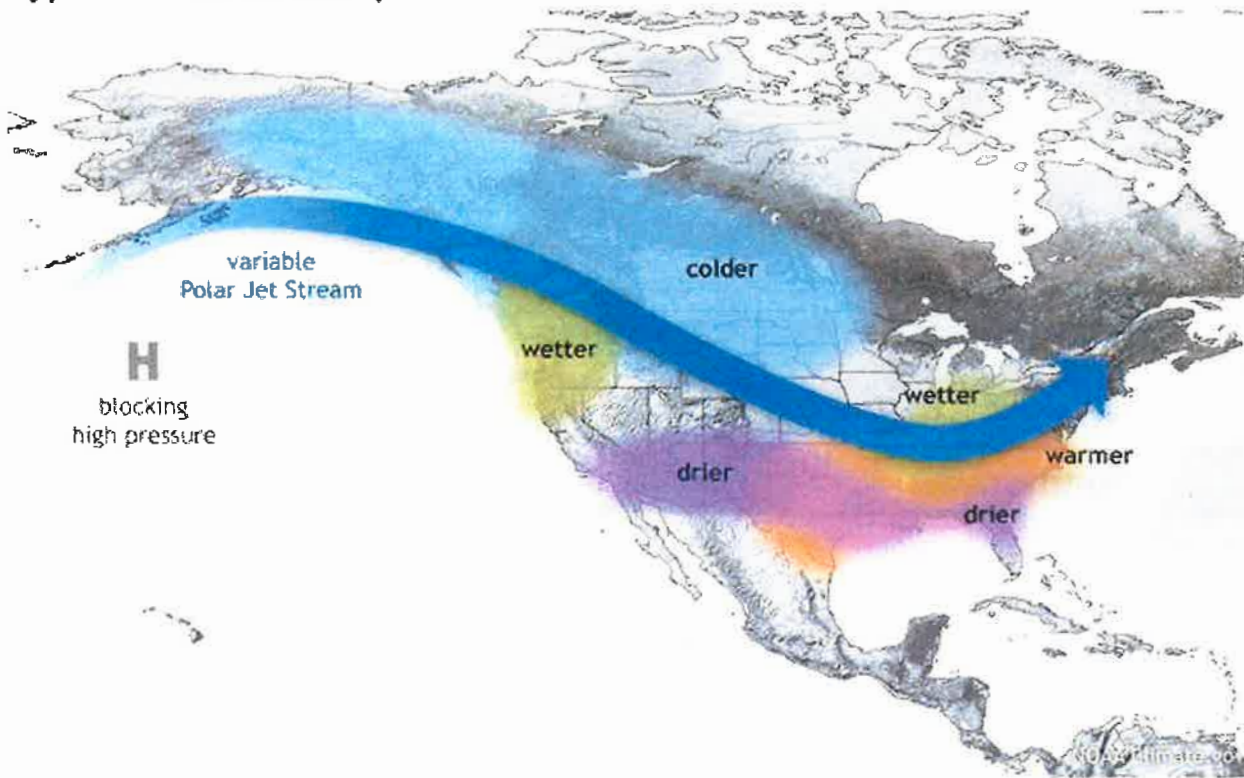
Derrick Snyder – National Weather Service, Paducah, KY



La Niña conditions are favored to emerge and persist during the winter months, with a 75% chance of La Niña by November to January. La Niña, which is defined by much cooler ocean temperatures in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean, will likely affect temperature and precipitation through the winter season. A typical La Niña pattern will bring disturbances through the Ohio Valley more frequently than usual, but whether this means Kentucky will see more snow than usual remains unclear. During the last few winters, the most impactful winter storms have occurred when a sudden, sharp transition from above normal to below normal temperatures is forecast, so that will be one item to pay close attention to during the day-to-day forecast.

The long-range winter outlook slightly favors increased chances for warmer than normal conditions across the Commonwealth. The outlook favors equal chances for above, below, or near normal seasonal precipitation (including all rain, snow, and ice) across much of Kentucky, with the exception of far northern Kentucky, where above normal precipitation is slightly favored. Much of the fall months have been marked by persist drier and warmer than normal conditions across the state, with persistent areas of widespread drought. The winter precipitation outlook suggests some drought improvement is possible through the winter.

### Typical winter La Niña pattern



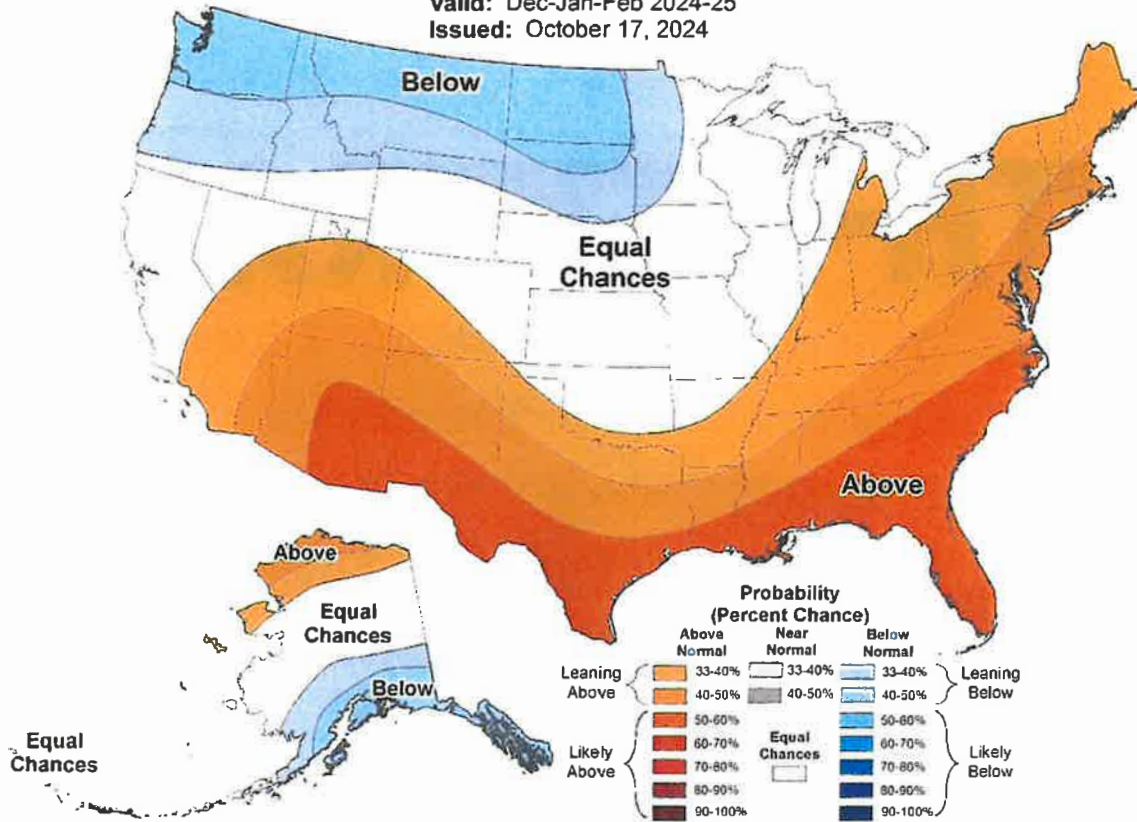


# Seasonal Temperature Outlook



Valid: Dec-Jan-Feb 2024-25

Issued: October 17, 2024

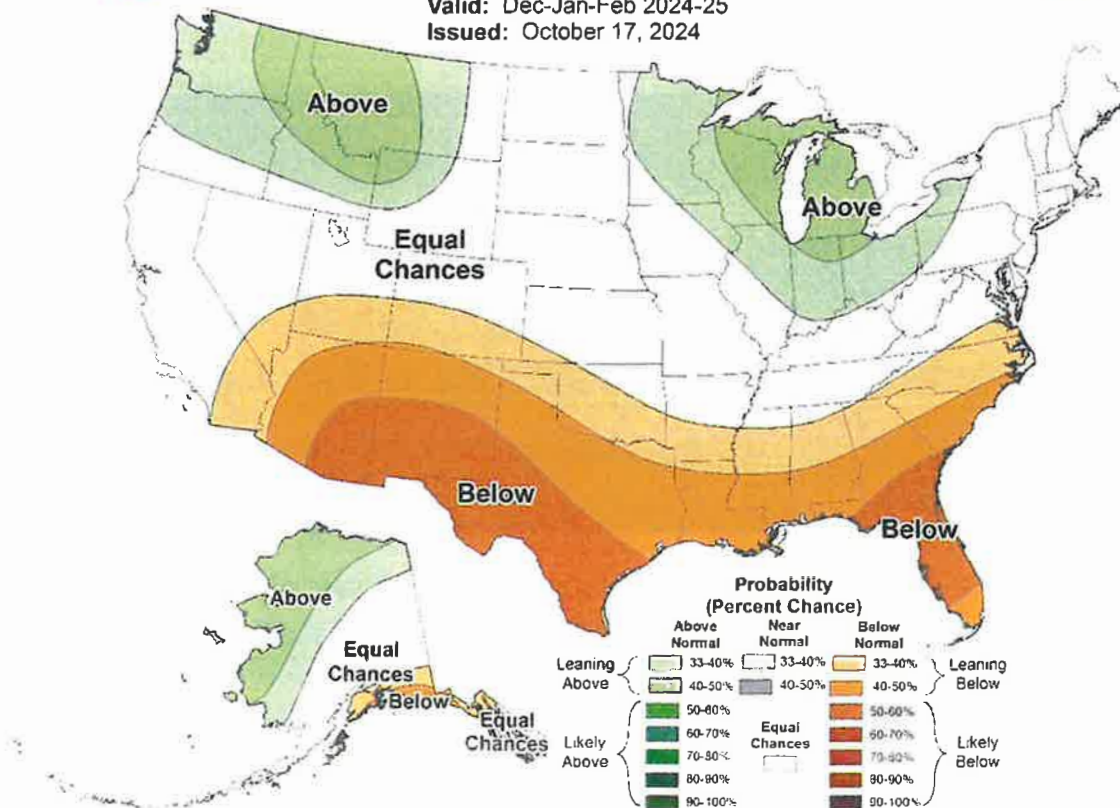


# Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



Valid: Dec-Jan-Feb 2024-25

Issued: October 17, 2024



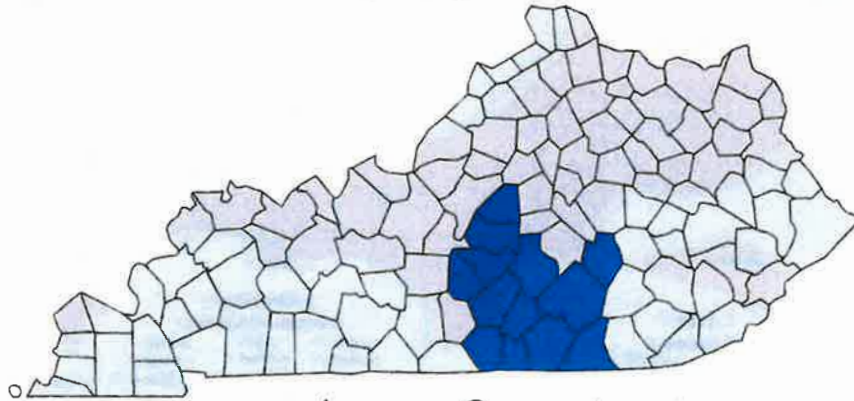




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# SOUTH-CENTRAL KY



## Hay Contest Awards & Educational Program

December 10th at 6:00pm EST  
Casey County Extension Office Educational Building  
1517 S. Wallace Wilkinson Blvd  
Liberty, KY 42539  
A meal will be provided.  
Call 606-787-7384 to register.

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Disabilities  
accommodated  
with prior notification

**Qualifies for CAIP Education**





## Sweet Potato Crisp

<b>3 large</b> fresh sweet potatoes, cooked until tender.	<b>1 teaspoon</b> vanilla	<b>½ cup</b> all-purpose flour
<b>8 ounces</b> reduced fat cream cheese, softened	<b>1 tablespoon</b> ground cinnamon	<b>¾ cup</b> quick cooking oats
<b>1 cup</b> brown sugar, divided	<b>2 medium</b> apples, chopped	<b>3 tablespoons</b> butter
		<b>¼ cup</b> chopped pecans

- 1. Preheat** oven to 350° F. Lightly spray a 13 x 9 x 2 inch pan with non-stick spray.
- 2. Mash** sweet potatoes. Add cream cheese, ½ cup brown sugar, vanilla and cinnamon. Mix until smooth.
- 3. Spread** sweet potato mixture evenly into pan.
- 4. Top** sweet potatoes with chopped apples.
- 5. In** a small bowl, combine flour, oats, and ½ cup brown sugar. Cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbles. Stir in pecans.
- 6. Sprinkle** mixture over apples.
- 7. Bake** uncovered for 35-40 minutes or until topping is golden brown and fruit is tender.

**Yield:** 16, ¾ cup servings.

**Nutritional Analysis:**  
 240 calories, 6 g fat, 3 g sat fat, 5 mg cholesterol, 200 mg sodium, 44 g carbohydrate, 4 g fiber, 20 g sugar, 4 g protein.



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

## Kentucky Sweet Potato

**SEASON:** All year—peak season is October through March.

**NUTRITION FACTS:** Sweet Potatoes are a good source of fiber, complex carbohydrates and vitamins A and C.

**SELECTION:** Two varieties of sweet potatoes are grown in Kentucky. The pale sweet potato has a light yellow skin and pale yellow flesh that is dry and crumbly. The darker variety has a dark skin and orange sweet flesh that cooks up moist. Choose small to medium-sized ones with smooth, unbruised skin.

**STORAGE:** Store unwrapped in a cool (50 degree) dry, dark place with good ventilation for up to 2 months or at room temperature for 2 weeks.

**PREPARATION:** Scrub well. Leave whole or peel, then slice, dice or shred.

**Baking:** Pierce skin in several places and rub with

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

margarine if desired. Arrange in a single layer and bake uncovered in a 375° F oven until soft when squeezed (45-60 minutes.)

**Boiling:** In a 3-quart pan, boil 4 whole medium-size potatoes, covered in 2 inches water until tender when pierced. Drain.

**Microwaving:** Pierce skin, place on a paper towel in microwave. If cooking more than 2 at a time, arrange like spokes. Microwave on high, turning halfway through cooking time. Allow 4-5 minutes for one potato.

### SWEET POTATOES

#### Kentucky Proud Project

County Extension Agents for Family and Consumer Sciences

University of Kentucky, Nutrition and Food Science Students  
 OCTOBER 2012

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# LAMBING & KIDDING SCHOOL & LAMB DINNER

Russell County Extension Office  
2688 S. Hwy 127  
Russell Springs, KY 42642

December 12th (Thursday), 2024  
from 6:00 PM to 8:40 PM (CST)

Featuring:

**Dr. Beth Johnson, DVM, Kentucky Department of Agriculture;**

**Dr. Jessie Lay, DVM, University of Kentucky;**

**Dr. Patrick Angel, Southeast Kentucky Sheep Producers Association**

*The Lambing & Kidding School is brought to you by the Russell Co Extension Office, Russell Co Sheep & Goat Producers Association (RCSGPA), Southeast Kentucky Sheep Producers Association (SEKSPA), Kentucky Department of Agriculture, and UK's Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. This school is for both beginner and experienced producers who wish to improve their lambing & kidding skills. We will teach the most modern, up-to-date methods of lambing & kidding, including preparations, the birthing process, after the birthing, problems with newborns, orphans, care of baby lambs and kids.*

**Registration Required. Please register by calling the  
Russell Co Extension Office at 270-866-4477**

Registration is \$20 per family which includes your  
RCSGPA & SEKSPA membership for 2025. Registration  
includes a delicious LAMB DINNER with SIDES!

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