

# OF WHEAT & WINDROWS AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES NEWSLETTLER September 2023

## August Hay Production Estimates are Encouraging, but Variation Still Exists

By: Dr. Kenny Burdine, University of Kentucky



Non-Alfalfa Hay Production Estimates in Selected States and US (2022 and 2023)

State	2022 Production (1,000 tons)	Est. 2023 Production (1,000 tons)	Change from 2022 to 2023
Arkansas	2,180	2,320	+6.4%
Kansas	3,315	3,900	+17.6%
Kentucky	4,224	4,680	+10.8%
Mississippi*	1,180	1,140	-3.4%
Missouri	5,490	4,350	-20.8%
Oklahoma	3,500	5,610	+60.3%
Tennessee	3,570	3,916	+9.7%
Texas	6,150	6,900	+12.2%
United States	64,843	69,894	+7.8%

\*Mississippi Estimates include Alfalfa and Alfalfa Mixtures  
Source: USDA-NASS August Crop Production Report

USDA's August Crop Production report serves as an initial estimate of the size of the year's hay crop and includes state-by-state estimates. This has implications for winter feed supply and winter feed costs for cattle operations. This year's hay crop will be especially important following the widespread drought across much of the US last year. Estimated May 1 Hay stocks were down by more than 13% nationally this spring (see figure below), which was driven by a combination of the small hay crop last year and a large number of hay feeding days last winter. Like any estimate, a lot can still happen for the remainder of the growing season, but it does provide some perspective on what can be expected from hay supplies going into fall.

## In this Issue

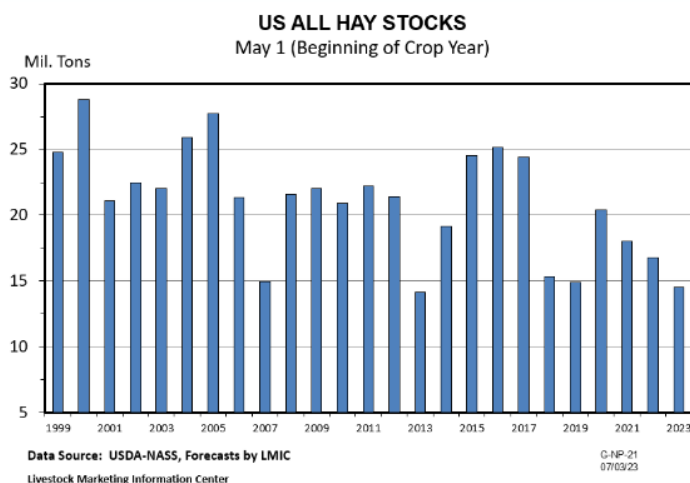
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For the purposes of this discussion, I am going to focus on what USDA refers to as all other hay. In most states, this means that Alfalfa and Alfalfa mixes are excluded. I am simply doing this since that is the category that is most associated with winter feeding implications for cow-calf operations. At the national level, all other hay production is estimated to be up by 8% from 2022 as a result increased acreage and yield. Certainly, this is encouraging and suggests improved hay supply is likely at the national level. But hay is a unique product with high transportation costs, so markets tend to be very localized. For this reason, hay prices can vary a lot from one area to the next. While overall conditions are better this year, there are still large cattle producing areas that are dealing with drought.

In the table above, I selected some state-level all hay production estimates from the August report. I included Kentucky, Arkansas, and Mississippi since that is where Josh, James, and I reside. Hay production was projected to be higher in Arkansas and Kentucky, while being down a bit in Mississippi. I also included Tennessee as another state in the Southeast, where hay production is projected to increase by nearly 10%. Beyond the Southeast, I included some states that were of particular interest due to the scale of hay production or the change from last year. Missouri stood out with an estimated decrease in production of more than 20%. After significantly reduced production levels last year, Oklahoma and Kansas stood out for the opposite reason, with projected increases of 60.3% and 17.6%, respectively. Texas is the largest hay producing state in the US and is projected to produce over 12% more hay in 2023.

The August Crop Production report serves as an important reminder of how different production can be across states and even within individual states. Further, conditions are constantly evolving and fall weather will impact production levels and hay feeding days this winter. While discussing USDA’s estimates provides some context, the real message is that producers should already be making plans for their winter hay needs. It’s never too early to assess likely hay needs for the upcoming winter and make certain that a sufficient supply is available.



# September Monthly Tips

- If not already done, soil sample and apply lime and fertilizer as needed.
- Plant perennial grasses and legumes. Consider using a novel endophyte tall fescue.
- Harvest hay as needed. Do Not harvest alfalfa after mid-September.
- Closey monitor livestock and do NOT over-graze. Pasture plants accumulate energy reverses in the fall that helps them overwinter and regrow in the spring.
- Fed hay to allow pastures to stockpile for winter grazing.
- Rest native warm season grass fields until after frost for better winter survival.

Photo by Jimmy Henning.

## How can we **serve you, Kentucky?**

Take a ten-minute survey to help us develop programs addressing needs in your community.

[go.uky.edu/serveKY](https://go.uky.edu/serveKY)



**KENTUCKY**  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

*An Equal Opportunity Organization.*



**UK** Martin-Gatton  
College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment

**KENTUCKY STATE**  
UNIVERSITY  
College of Agriculture, Community, and the Sciences

# Dates to Know

## September

**4th-** Labor Day! The Extension Office will be closed.

**7th-** Boyle County Investment in Youth Sale

**12th-** 2023 Horses and Horsemen: Equipment and Facilities for the Small Acreage Horse Owner at Desmar Stables LLC (685 Handy Pike, Harrodsburg, KY 40330) at 5:00 pm.

**18th-** Rinse N Return at Southern States (Danville).

**19th-** Beginning Farmer Series: Business Plans & Record Keeping at Boyle County Extension Office at 5:30 pm.

**21st-** Beef Bash at C. Oran Little Research Center in Versailles, KY.

**21st-** Kentucky State University Third Thursday Thing: Pawpaw

## October

**2nd-4th-** Habitat Management Symposium at Harold R. Benson Research and Demonstration Farm (1525 Mills Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601).

**2nd-** BQCA Training at Boyle County Extension Office at 9:00 am. Cost \$5.00.

**10th-** Beginning Farmer Series: FSA & Funding Options at Boyle County Extension Office at 5:30 pm.

**11th-12th-** University of Kentucky Pregnancy Diagnosis & AI School C. Oran Little Research Farm Beef Unit (4410 Frankfort Rd. Versailles, KY 40383) from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Cost is \$400.00.

**14th-** Kentucky Sheep and Goat Development Office Annual Producers Conference at Boyle County Cooperative Extension Office.

**19th-** Kentucky State University Third Thursday Thing: Small Ruminant

**31st-** Halloween



# KENTUCKY WOOD EXPO

September 15 & 16, 2023

Make plans to participate in the 35th Kentucky Wood Expo, the two-day event is designed to accent the forest products industry. The show will attract loggers, sawmill and pallet operators, manufacturers of forest products and related machinery, retailers and wholesalers, and consumers of wood products.

Outdoor & Indoor Exhibits ~ Equipment Demonstrations  
~ Lumberjack & Logging Contests ~  
Chain Saw Carving ~ Forestry Education ~ Wood Crafts

Masterson Station Park, Lexington, KY  
kywoodexpo.com | 502-695-3979  
Email: michele@kfia.org



Sponsored by: Kentucky Forest Industries Association

# BEGINNING FARMER *Series*

## Business Plans & Record Keeping

### SEPTEMBER 19

### Schedule

**5:30 pm**

**Meal Begins.**

**6:00 pm**

**Building a Business Plan & Record  
Keeping**

**Dr. Steve Issacs,**

**UK Ag Economics Extension Specialist**

**AT Boyle County Cooperative Extension  
Office**

**CALL (859)236-4484 TO SIGN UP!**

**This qualifies for CAIP Educational  
requirement.**





## 2023 Horses & Horsemen:

Equipment and Facilities for the Small Acreage Horse Owner

Tuesday, September 12 at 5:00pm

RSVP to Mercer County Extension Office: 859-734-4378

**Schedule:**

- 5:00—Registration and trade fair
- 6:00—Dinner by Mercer County Cattlemen’s Association
- 6:15—Welcome & Farm Overview by Desmar Stables
- 6:30—Tractor and Equipment Safety—Dale Dobson, KDA Farm Safety Program Administrator
- 7:00—What to consider in your farm layout, Dr. Bob Coleman —Making Good Equipment Decisions, Dr. Morgan Hayes



**DESMAR STABLES**

**Location:**

**Desmar Stables LLC**  
at Crockett Springs Farm  
685 Handy Pike  
Harrodsburg, KY 40330



College of Agriculture,  
Food and Environment  
Cooperative Extension Service



University of  
**Kentucky**  
Ag Equine Programs  
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

**Cooperative Extension Service**

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

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University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.  
Lexington, KY 40506



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**2023 KY ANNUAL PRODUCER CONFERENCE**

**THIRD THURSDAY THING**

Every third Thursday of the month, January through November, at 10 a.m. ET

~~January 19: USDA Farm and Home Loans | Natural Resources Management~~

~~February 16: Organic Agriculture~~

~~March 16: Small Ruminants~~

~~April 20: Pest Control | NIPDS Programs~~

~~May 18: Aquaculture~~

~~June 15: Farmers Market | Juneteenth Celebration~~

~~July 20: Fencing | Pastured Poultry~~

~~August 17: Sustainable and Organic Agriculture~~

September 21: Pawpaw

October 19: Small Ruminants

November 16: Small Farms Conference



**KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY**  
Cooperative Extension Program

Join us in person at the Harold R. Benson Research and Demonstration Farm or online at [YouTube.com/kysuag/live](https://www.youtube.com/kysuag/live)



Don't Miss Keynote Speaker:  
Dr. Braden Campbell,  
The Ohio State University,  
Assistant Professor



**October 14, 2023**  
**Boyle County Extension Office**



**Upcoming Events**

# Recipe

## Venison Chili



### Venison Chili

- 1 pound ground venison
- 1 large onion, chopped
- ½ green pepper, chopped
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 (16 ounces) can diced tomatoes
- 2 (16 ounces) cans chili beans, undrained
- 1 (8 ounces) can tomato sauce
- 1 bay leaf
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon cumin
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- Black pepper to taste

In a Dutch oven or large skillet, brown meat, onion, and green pepper in vegetable oil. Add remaining ingredients. Simmer 1 hour on low heat, stirring frequently. Remove bay leaf before serving.

**Alternative to stove-top cooking:** use slow cooker set on high for 4 hours

**Yield:** 10 servings

Adapted from Wild Game: From Field to Table, Sandra Bastin, Ph.D, RD, Extension Food and Nutrition Specialist. Revised July 2007

### Nutrition Facts

10 servings per container  
Serving size 1 cup (230g)

Amount per serving  
**Calories 190**

	% Daily Value*
<b>Total Fat</b> 4.5g	6%
Saturated Fat 1g	5%
Trans Fat 0g	
<b>Cholesterol</b> 40mg	13%
<b>Sodium</b> 640mg	28%
<b>Total Carbohydrate</b> 20g	7%
Dietary Fiber 2g	7%
Total Sugars 4g	
Includes 0g Added Sugars	0%
<b>Protein</b> 16g	
Vitamin D 0mcg	0%
Calcium 67mg	6%
Iron 3mg	15%
Potassium 586mg	10%

\*The % Daily Value (DV) tells you how much a nutrient in a serving of food contributes to a daily diet. 2,000 calories a day is used for general nutrition advice.

## Soil Testing

Just a reminder Boyle County Extension Office offers **FREE** soil testing to anyone in the county up to 40 samples per person per year. For soil sample bags or more information call the Boyle County Extension Office at (859)236-4484.

## Dead Animal Removal

The Boyle County Conservation District and the Boyle County Fiscal Court sponsors the removal of deceased animals in Boyle County. If you have a deceased animal **call (859) 238-1137**, Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. The deceased animal needs to be in an accessible area for pick up.



Be sure to follow the **Boyle Co. Agriculture & Natural Resources** on Facebook to stay up to date on events, classes and surveys.



*Tyler Ray*

**Tyler Ray, County Extension Agent for Agriculture and Natural Resources**

Cooperative Extension Service  
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LEXINGTON, KY 40546



Disabilities accommodated with prior notification.

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# ***BEEF BASH 2023***

**DATE:** Thursday, September 21, 2023

**WHERE:** University of Kentucky  
C. Oran Little Research Center  
1051 Midway Rd.  
Versailles, KY 40383

**TIME:** Registration starts at 1:30 PM EST  
Programs start at 2:00 PM EST

**MAKE PLANS TO JOIN US!**

**VISIT WITH:**  
COMMERCIAL EXHIBITORS  
EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS &  
DEMONSTRATIONS  
UK PERSONNEL & ADMINISTRATORS  
KCA LEADERSHIP & STAFF

**Tickets are \$15 and includes meal. To Pre-register, go to [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) and search Beef Bash 2023**

CAIP  
Approved